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Latin America

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NOTICE

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FMLN, FSLN, Salvadoran Parties Ready for Caracas

PA2305184191 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 22 May 91

[From the independent "Extravision" newscast directed by Manuel Espinoza, former information minister under the Ortega administration]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and the Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena] of El Salvador are optimistic about the outcome of the meeting that will take place in Caracas, Venezuela, on Saturday to discuss a cease-fire.

Former Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega met with Salvadoran political party representatives in the Intercontinental Hotel this afternoon. Ortega, who is the coordinator of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], met with Democratic Convergence delegates, with two deputies belonging to Arena, which is the governing party in El Salvador, and with representatives of the National Conciliation Party and the Christian Democratic Party.

These parties held talks this week with the FMLN delegation, prior to the meeting that the guerrillas will hold with the Salvadoran Government in Caracas, Venezuela.

[Begin recording of FMLN Commander Joaquin Villalobos] In negotiations, the negotiators make demands but are also ready to accede. [Words indistinct] the FMLN.

I think that things are not being seen in terms [words indistinct]. What is important is that we have a national project, and we are working on it. If this is seen this way at a given moment, it is because there is agreement that changes would be the best alternative for the national project. During the Mexico meeting, we secured a good level of agreement, even if some issues are still pending. That level of agreement is an expression of a certain level of national congruence and this [words indistinct] so that it could be secured. This was not a concession. It represents a position in the framework of the true situation. [end recording]

Governments Urged To Sign Convention on Sea

PY2405012891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2203 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Santiago, 18 May (EFE)—The Latin American jurists who concluded today in Santiago a conference on sea matters, urged the regional governments to study the possibility of ratifying in a short term the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (Convemar).

This call was one of the main conclusions of the meeting that began last Monday at the site of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLA). The meeting was called by the Permanent South Pacific Commission (CPPS).

The delegates also expressed their concern over the fact that Latin America "has lost its leadership" in this matter and is submerged in "apathy and indifference."

For this reason, regional governments were urged to adopt a vanguard position in accordance with the changes that have taken place since the approval of the Convention on the Law of the Sea by the United Nations at the Jamaica Conference on 10 December 1982.

On that occasion, 157 countries signed the Convemar, among which were 20 Latin American countries, because of the exclusion of Peru, Ecuador, and Venezuela which demanded a 200-mile territorial sea, while the convention recognizes only 12 miles.

To implement this agreement, 60 countries must ratify it, and so far only 45 have signed, among them Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, and Paraguay.

Regional experts on the law of the sea have stated that Latin America must begin studying adequate formulas to reach a more realistic position on the exploitation of mineral resources on the ocean floor.

According to the jurists, joint exploitations among coastal countries and foreign investors will pave the way for industrialized countries to ratify the convention.

During the five days of meetings, the delegates discussed matters such as sovereignty and jurisdiction over the sea, preservation and administration of the living resources, scientific research, and environmental protection.

Cuba

Castro Delivers Speech on ANAP Anniversary

FL2205192691 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0122 GMT 18 May 91

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at a ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the National Association of Small Farmers, ANAP, Peasant's Day, and the 32d anniversary of the Agrarian Reform Law, at the 17 May Cooperative in Quibican, Havana on 17 May—recorded]

[Text] Dear Comrades: Do not be frightened thinking that I am going to make a long speech here. Comrade Lugo was telling me yesterday that the ceremony would be held at 1730 and he invited me to participate. I asked at what time it would be held and he said at 1730. I said: Do not worry because I will be there at 1730.

It is a simple celebration. I would say [words indistinct] of these times. It is the 30th anniversary of the ANAP, is that not so? And how many years since the agrarian reform?

[ANAP President Orlando Lugo Fonte responds: 32] Thirty-two. You did not mention it. You forgot about the agrarian reform. You only remembered the ANAP. I was telling [Victorino] Lemus [first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Havana Province]. Lemus, there is also the other anniversary, of the Agrarian Reform Law.

That is why I was saying these are two very important anniversaries. We are marking them with simplicity in line with the times and the need to work. I was thinking everyone worked until 1730 today, 17 May, because we cannot lose an hour, not even a minute, especially these days. In spite of that, the date is no less important for us inasmuch as the revolution began with the Agrarian Reform and the big, extensive, and incessant changes that have taken place in our countryside. Lugo mentioned some of them when he talked about schools, hospitals, roads, and (?housing), when he talked about electricity, which has now reached almost everywhere, including the mountains. When cables do not reach, a minipower plant is built to solve the situation. That is a more reliable [chuckles] source because it does not need fuel. [passage indistinct] all the technical assistance, the credits, the support given to the peasants every time there was a disaster, pests, hurricane, or vast flooding.

Peasants were never forgotten [words indistinct] are lacking nothing. Many things are guaranteed to them, considering our limitations. Above all, they have freedom, dignity, participation in the work of the revolution—which at this time has turned into a work of universal historic importance—and the defense of the most just ideas. It involves us in all those dreams our liberators fought for. Our peasants participated in them in a very decisive way. I am referring to the wars for independence and the latest struggles for national liberation.

As Lugo was saying, we are now going through the special period. We face many limitations. Of course, in the last 48 hours, I have spent 16, 17 hours with the peasants. I met with agriculture workers and managers. On 15 May, we had a national meeting on livestock that lasted 11 hours. All the managers of livestock enterprises of the country were present, basically the milk and meat producers, as the state has a large presence in that. Comrade Lugo and the ANAP representatives were also present at the meeting in which we analyzed the problems. We were discussing what to do in a situation in which we have a third of the fertilizers we normally had, what to do when we do not have mixed feed. We do not have mixed feed, we do not have grain. We were discussing what to do when we are receiving the equivalent of [figure indistinct] fewer liters of milk per year than we used to receive through the GDR with which we had agreements to exchange torula yeast for powdered milk as a result of investments we made there, and what we should do with large amounts of milk that also came as condensed milk, powdered milk, or butter.

We used to receive 16,000 tons of milk from the USSR, and we no longer receive them. What should we do to solve the problems precisely when we have less fertilizer than ever and [words indistinct], when the resources to obtain those goods in other places are very scarce. It is a very complicated and difficult problem but nobody is discouraged here by the complications or difficulties.

In that meeting we analyzed and discussed the situation and implemented a number of measures. They were not abstract measures, but grew out of our experiences, using the experiments conducted in our research centers and our countryside. Our revolution has developed a type of mixed feed from sugarcane which is called sacharina. That is the end product from very recent research results.

Our revolution already has some leguminous plants that have also been tested recently, such as wisteria and leucaena, to give two examples. Our revolution has had for some years the ideas and experiences of Guasan's rational grazing. Guasan was a distinguished French agricultural specialist and researcher who, as a matter of fact, died in our country. His books were published and distributed here in the early days. Of course, that was when our country did not have the number of engineers and technicians it has today. The techniques are much more developed now. They are much better known.

So, we are going to face the livestock-related problems, the lack of fertilizers and grains, mainly with the implementation [words indistinct] of rational grazing. We already have over 300 units working with the improved rational grazing system. That requires materials. It requires electric fences. [Words indistinct] you can imagine the number of posts and the amount of [words indistinct]. We are already making the electric fence

equipment. We spend about $30 and buy components for the electric fences. We later use a galvanized wire which we developed here after getting the raw material.

We intend to implement the rational grazing system in over 6,000 units from now to the end of the year. [Words indistinct] all the dairy farms. As I told you a minute ago, the electric fence is essential so that we do not have to fill the cattle farms with fences. We need to place posts at a certain distance from each other and one wire takes the electric current and gives the cow a small electric shock. Pretty soon the cow learns not to go over the fence. Of course, knowledgeable people are required for that, people to make the calculations, skilled laborers such as the ones we already have on our cattle farms. They need to know where and when to move the herds. The most important thing is that the entire herd goes over the area and does not leave any grass. Scientists say all types of grass are good, but animals select them on their own. If the herds are taken through an area in three or four groups for three or four days or less, [words indistinct] grass.

They also fill the soil with manure, which serves as fertilizer, and with urine, which also serves as fertilizer. If a certain level of humidity is available—which is not good for other crops—it makes the grass grow. This perfected system doubles the number of ?animals' per hectare and increases milk and meat production. Our problem is to build the electric fences and place all the posts. Our problem is to train the staff that has to direct the grazing. Our problem is to obtain the wire. There is electricity almost everywhere, but our problem is also to develop small mechanisms that can produce electricity from the wind for the electric fence. That can practically double [words indistinct]. These are tremendous resources to use during and after the special period.

That is not the only thing we are doing. We are already developing leguminous plants for what we call protein banks. A cow that can eat a ration of wisteria or leucaena can produce up to 10, 11, and 12 liters without mixed feed. Of course, we are increasing that quickly. We had a few caballerias, a few tons last year. We produced about 10 tons. Now we produce about 100. We are going to have over 1,000 caballerias of wisteria. We would need much more. Together with the leucaena we will have a total of perhaps 2,000 caballerias this year. Next year, we can plant 10,000 as we collect seeds. We collect seeds from each one of these crops and we later give it to the cattle and [words indistinct] at full speed. We are not going to stop collecting a single wisteria and leucaena seed while we study other leguminous plants. That is our second resource, and it is an important resource because, in addition, leguminous plants produce nitrogen. Leguminous plants [words indistinct] a bacteria in the soil that gets nitrogen from the air. It does not have to be produced industrially. It does not have to be transported. They enrich the soil with nitrogen and enrich the grass with protein, which is essential for the production of milk. That is the second resource.

The third resource is extremely important: the sacharina I mentioned before. We plan to plant at least... at least one caballeria of sugarcane on each cattle farm. We plan to plant one caballeria and more in some cases. We are going to have more land if grass yields twice as much and we can plant sugarcane. We can fertilize that cane with the cattle farm's manure. Without many problems [words indistinct] 90,000 or 100,000 arrobas per caballeria. We should plant good cane. We already have part of it. The idea is to have an area planted with sugarcane in each cattle farm. You, the ones who are members of this cooperative, know what the sugarcane yields. You do not have the vanguard status for nothing. You know that sometimes it yields over 100,000 arrobas.

We plan to have a little machine on each cattle farm and a little engine to mill the cane. We then mix it with urea and other mineral salts. A fermentation process takes place in 24 hours. This enriches cane with protein. [Passage indistinct] This is processed cane. We plan to make over 6,000 little machines, which we are already makeing here, to mill the cane. We are planning to buy the engines. We are discussing whether to use electricity or diesel. We are doing estimates on fuel costs, how much the electric engine costs from the time the fuel is taken to the thermoelectric power plants, electricity is produced, it is transmitted, and it is converted into mechanical energy again. We are trying to figure out above all what is the most practical thing; the electrical engine or the other one. That is being studied [words indistinct] all the conclusions. I was going to tell you earlier that we are going to build 4,000 electric fences. We have already produced a certain amount. We are going to have 1,000 in reserve; 1,000 electric fences in reserve.

So, we will have these three resources. You know that if you have a caballeria [words indistinct] can give 25 or 30 arrobas of milled cane enriched with protein, which is developed with this fermenting process if you add the mineral salts I referred to earlier to the cane. Thirty pounds of cane for a cow that is also eating grass and some leguminous plants is considerable. There will be fresh grass that the cow itself in a certain way has fertilized and irrigated when the herd went by.

Of course, it is very important to take water to [words indistinct] we also have studied the solution to that. A team of oxen can take tanks [words indistinct]. There is something more: hoses to take plenty of water. It is important that cows have plenty of water. Part of that water is consumed by cows but another part returns to the soil. It turns into [words indistinct] irrigates cubic meters of soil without spending fuel. We are going to make a few thousands of kilometers of hoses—perhaps 10,000 or more—to take water to each corral in an economical way. There are plans to build dams, tanks, wells (?of various types), [words indistinct] and we are going to make a few thousands to transport water. You can see that an arroba of cane a day can be given to 900,000 animals with 3,000 caballerias of cane.

Assuming the cattle farm has 300 animals [words indistinct] a cattle farm of 120 cows. We are also going to take the concept of an integral cattle farm so that calves are raised there [words indistinct] up to a certain age.

A man can cut 300 arrobas of cane a day. There is no need to use a machine there. Some 3,000 men can take care of that arroba for 900,000 animals. We discussed those plans at length. We worked on them. They are already being implemented. All the appropriate organizations are implemeting them. An attempt is being made to get at least 6,000 units—not only cattle farms but calf-raising centers and others—to implement all those techniques by 31 December. That includes the electric fence and the rational grazing system. We are estimating the number of posts that need to be build. We are going to use some of the existing ones. The periphery fence will be the only one left. We need the posts and we need to place them to install the electric fence every day.

We will have animals working for man and not have man working for animals as we have been doing up to now. We need to get the animals to irrigate and fertilize the land. We need to get animals to plant. You may ask: How? Yes, if the plant seeds are spread in the field and animals are made to step over it they will cover them. We are going to plant many, thousands of caballerias with plant seeds. That requires minimal preparation of the soil and it will eliminate the use of fuel.

The animals will irrigate, plant, and fertilize the soil. They eliminate all the grass. They do not leave any type of weeds because they eat them when they go in herds.

Well, I give you all these examples so that you can have an idea that there are resources and possibilities of working things out. The leguminous plants will be a source of protein. We will use zeolite with manure. We will look for some of our mines which, although they have little phosphorous, they can help to enrich the land with a little bit of phosphorous and calcium. We have studied the soils everywhere and know where a little more or a little less is needed. Sometimes the product is there but a certain level or a certain condition is needed in the soil so that it can be used efficiently.

There will be practically no mixed feed or fertilizers for cattle. In spite of this, we plan to bring about a revolution with all this. Fertilizers need to be kept for other basic crops such as the sugarcane. We cannot stop using at least a little bit of nitrogen. We are going to use all the collection centers' ashes, which have phosphorous, potassium, and mineral salts. We are going to put them back into the fields. We are going to use filter cake [cachaza] and nitrogen to enrich the soil. We need to save urea for the rice fields, to give it with molasses to the animals that are being fattened. Do not forget that sugarcane not only gives us sacharina but also molasses as a by-product. Proteinaceous molasses is used to feed pigs. Molasses with urea is used to feed meat-producing animals. Sugarcane is a crop that yields a lot per hectare. You can see that a caballeria can yield 25 pounds a day to 300 animals for a year. A little fertilizer for cane and rice is essential. We are seeing how we can use it better, if some can be in the form of urea from leaves, even if it is a minimal part, a small percentage. It is not like cane which allows a greater percentage of urea from leaves. A little phosphorous and potassium fertilizer is needed in the poorest soils. Fertilizer is needed for the production of direct food such as plantains, potatoes, tubers, and vegetables. We have no other choice than to use there the little fertilizer that is available.

We have been analyzing all these things extensively. We have been looking for formulas. Yesterday, we held a meeting with the Havana Province cooperatives. [Words indistinct] and enterprises like the miscellaneous crops enterprises and representatives of other enterprises of Havana Province were there. The top 15 farmers were invited. They were selected from among the best. Gomez, one of the Gomez brothers, was among them. He is one of the best farmers in this province. They were there in that meeting. We were analyzing the problems related to the production of tubers and vegetables for the capital. I was telling them that we had 2.1 million inhabitants for which we need to provide food every day. [Words indistinct] because the other provinces have their own needs. In addition, there is transportation. Our goal should be to [words indistinct] with the land we have available.

We need to increase productivity, tend the crops much better. We have to fight against serious obstacles. One of the situations that have taken place and you have been able to notice is that the winter months are warmer each year. It is said that these phenomena have originated from the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere because of the consumption of coal, oil, fossil fuels, etc. That is bringing about a warming effect in the atmosphere. All peasants know very well that [word indistinct] needs cold weather, and potato crops need cold weather. Many of the winter crops need cool weather. We use to have 30, 35, and almost 40 cold fronts. They brought cold air. Pollution was the only blight we used to get.

Now there are only 10, 11, 12, [words indistinct] cold fronts. January is as warm as April or May. Alternaria leaf spot comes and hits potato, tomato, onion, and even carrot crops, many crops. It is a fungus, is a strong enemy, which forces us to make special efforts to see which measures we need to take. We search for more resistant varieties that are easier to grow. Irrigation needs to be increased to make the environment cooler. If we used to irrigate every six or seven days, now with the increase of pests we need to irrigate every three or four days. These warm years work against production and force us to make special efforts.

We are developing biological controls. The white fly did a lot of damage last year. This year it was practically contained in the countryside throug! biological controls. In the same way there are negative bacteria, fungi, and

viruses, there are positive bacteria, fungi, and insects. They help combat pests that attack crops.

We discussed all these problems yesterday. We also discussed spring planting. Tomatoes planted in the spring hardly pays for itself. It is almost impossible for it to pay for itself. If it suffers during the winter months what it has suffered [words indistinct] we must plant other crops, like beans, okra, eggplant, garlic [words indistinct] herbs, squash, [words indistinct] cucumbers. During these months the heat increases and weeds grow extremely quickly. In spite of the enormous effort made and the thousands of Havana residents who have been mobilized, the fight against weeds is very difficult.

During the months of April we need to plant and weed and in May we have to plant and weed. Yesterday we analyzed each crop, each caballeria. We figured out how many have been planted and how many need to be planted from now to the end of the month. We talked about how we have to harvest now and how we have to plant and fight against weeds. We discussed how plantain crops are going, plantains with surface and aerial microject irrigation. It is going quickly, but it is not going to give us plantains in the second half of the year. All new plantain plants that are planted in March, April, May, June, and July will not yield plantains for a year. Nevertheless, enormous efforts need to be made in weeding. I found a group of the Blas Roca Contingent's 30th Brigade that since December [words indistinct] has weeded [words indistinct] 12 times. An enormous effort is being made.

Now many people in Havana are beginning to understand the effort needed to weed, to produce those foods, to fight against weeds, to harvest with the heat and humidity of this country. Humidity does not help. Of course, as you know and Lugo might have said, the revolution gave many opportunities to everyone, all kinds of opportunities. [Words indistinct] the children of peasants, agriculture workers, cooperative members [words indistinct] because we had 38,000 hectares of miscellaneous crops. Now we have added 4,000 more hectares which used to be planted with cane. This year we have asked for 300 caballerias that used to be for sugarcane. We had already transferred 450, [corrects himself] 750 caballerias from sugarcane to miscellaneous crops in the province. Despite that, sugar production has not dropped. The sugar industry workers have managed to increase yields. We plan to continue increasing yields. We will have plot drainage system [words indistinct] we even have one caballeria, almost one test caballeria with aerial microjet irrigation to see what it yields. That was in Artemisa. It was planted recently. The sugar industry sector has transferred us 750 caballerias. We now have 42,000 hectares.

Different things need to be planted when a sugarcane field is changed from one year to the next [words indistinct] so that it is not affected by the cane's residual herbicides. We have 42,000 hectares. Over 9,000 will be planted with plantains. They will all have irrigation systems: bananas and plantains. [Passage indistinct] plantains with aerial microjet irrigation is like building a city. Each caballeria requires over 800 posts and [figures indistinct] kilometers of underground pipe and above-ground hose. It is a very modern technique. We are really working with the most modern techniques in the world, trying to get increased productivity. [Words indistinct] research centers searching for varieties, searching for fungi and bacteria for the biological control of pests. [Words indistinct] possible for our country to develop into a great producer of these products for the biological control of pests. It will be one of the country's fields of development, as medicine is turning out to be. It will be medicine for plants, but not through pesticides or poisons. We need to use those poisons as little as possible because many times those products are passed on to people even when measures are taken.

That is why the work of scientists looking for biological controls of pests is so important. The sugarcane industry workers use the famous [words indistinct] fly, I think it is called, against the borer. It would be impossible to spray the cane with pesticides. It would be extremely expensive to spray 30,000 caballerias of sugarcane to fight the borer. We defend ourselves from other diseases by using resistant varieties. We also need to do that with plants. Research centers are working [words indistinct] biological control. They are working on developing bacteria and fungi that get nitrogen from the air.

I already told you that leguminious plants have rhizomes, but gramineous plants can have (?sotobacteria). We are studying the number of fermenting machines we have in the country to produce torula yeast or other things and to produce millions of liters with (?sotobacteria) which can also be used to fertilize plants, vegetables, and gramineous plants. Some dozen (?sotobacteria) have been isolated that are useful for [words indistinct] develop each type according to the soil and the variety of cane. Researchers (?have isolated) dozens, and our problem now is how to multiply those bacteria through [words indistinct] store it in liquid form and spray it on sugarcane.

So, our science is having an impact. Who would have said 30 or 32 years ago when the agrarian reform began that today we would have dozens of thousands of scientists, engineers, all types of technicians, dozens of research centers that would be doing such things? They are looking for microorganisms instead of pesticides to fight pests, looking for microorganisms that produce nitrogen or turn other elements in the soil into usable substances instead of chemical fertilizers.

That is the type of thing we have to do these days, and we are doing them. We are also breaking in 100,000 oxen. As soon as we are done we are going to break in 100,000 more. Instead of eating oxen we have to turn them into working animals. We always try to bring in something else, such as poultry. We will find something to replace that meat. For now, at least 200,000 animals that are suitable for slaughter have to be used to play the role of

tractors. If we find ourselves with more fuel problems we are not going to raise our hands or give up. We will never do that. We will be doing all these things to face the unexpected difficulties that have come up [words indistinct] which are already known. While the Yankees sharpen their teeth [words indistinct] we work without rest and without respite and without losing a minute. I say that we cannot lose a single minute. To you, farmers, I say we cannot lose a second, much less now during these decisive months.

We already had May Day during the month of May. It was a wasted day from a production point of view. The day before and the day after were also wasted. If people were mobilized [for the rally] the day before and the day after, 48 more hours were wasted. We later had a very beautiful day which was Mother's Day, but students and everyone were mobilized to their homes. It is a logical thing. That leaves the days before and after with a decreased productivity. We were counting the [words indistinct] the caballerias that were not planted, harvested, or weeded. [applause]

Now with Peasant's Day we said: Let us hope that people do not stop working, because if they do we will have wasted May. May cannot be wasted. The rains that fall in this southern area come now. Between the heat, weeds, and rain, the situation becomes serious. An idea has returned to my mind, an idea that I mentioned Lugo might have said before, and that I did not complete. Everyone's children went off to school, to the pre-university schools, to schools for teachers, professors, physicians, engineers, technicians, and everything, officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces Ministry and Interior Ministry. Nobody was left. That is a reality. Those are life's inconsistencies. That wonderful thing that everyone could go to school made many people give up the idea of working in the countryside.

You have no idea how many have gone to the city and other places. They have become professionals. We run the risk of having a society of intellectuals. Now we have had to mobilize people from Havana.

There are many people from the eastern provinces among them. I run into them and I joke with them. I say: Now you are going to live in one of those towns. You are crazy about the new towns we want to build, because they are going to be very pretty. There are married couples and all those who are thinking about moving to the towns, because that agricultural enterprise with 1,700 caballerias has 1,900 agricultural workers. That is barely one worker per caballeria. There were many enterprises that had less than one worker per caballeria.

People come here from Havana, and I run into those people from the eastern provinces, and I say: Before you lived 1,000 km away [words indistinct] now you are going to live 35 km away. You have come quite a bit nearer the capital. But they are there, in the capital. You better be careful [words indistinct] because we will take away the medal we gave to the national vanguard workers. [words indistinct] live in the countryside. [applause]

But it is beneficial. You should see the things they have been building. They have been working. I had no idea that the workers from the eastern provinces could work so hard. I thought that the people from Villa Clara Province worked more than those from the eastern provinces, but I have discovered that they are phenomenal, especially because they go through the transformation [words indistinct] They form a contingent and acquire the habit. They are redoubtable, because the people from the eastern provinces were known as warriors in the eras of independence and invasions and all those things. They always liked that a lot.

After the revolution, in addition to war they liked the invasions [words indistinct] were another kind of invasions [words indistinct] in Havana. And now they love the new towns, because the towns are going to be wonderful, in the style of the Olympic Village, and they will not cost any more. With the same materials and the same things, only with better and prettier designs, they are going to be much more human towns. But now we have to do all this. We must build from 10,000 to 12,000 houses to bring in new people, who will not return to the city, but pull the weeds. It is not like with sugarcane, where we have machinery to solve the problems for us. There are machines to take the place of 300,000 cane cutters. Now, tomatoes must be picked one by one, or when you plant cucumbers and three little leaves this big come up, and weeds are growing right beside them, and you do not know which are the weeds and which are the cucumbers.

I have seen the people from Havana [words indistinct] making a great effort, people who worked in offices working 10 and 12 hours a day, pulling weeds by hand. There are no machines to do that, or for the boniato vines. You have to cut the boniato vines. In order to plant one caballeria of boniato, you need 600,000 vines and 200 workers cutting vines in one day to plant one caballeria. After planting the 600,000 vines in that one caballeria, it is natural that the planting would be done well, the field would be well tended.

The Gomez brothers' technique would be used, because they have their boniato there. I have visited it. They produce even the seeds. They have their technique for (?harvesting) the seeds. It would require a long explanation and I do not want to run on a lot. They produce the seeds. They get 10,000 quintals. That is why they are among the very outstanding farmers. Not all are like that. Not all farmers have the same knowledge, the same experience, but there are some very outstanding ones in different crops, and we more or less keep them in mind. [words indistinct] when we want to know what you can get from a hectare, how you should do it, in what way [words indistinct] They are very knowledgeable. I would say that each of the farmers, what they have on their farms, those outstanding farmers—and there are a few

dozen in this province, just as there are also some very outstanding cooperatives—always [words indistinct] research. They are also scientists, just like the outstanding cooperatives, the outstanding enterprises. We must watch for that.

But if you plant up to 600,000 boniato vines to get a bit over a pound from each vine, you get 10,000 quintals. It is nothing to get 3,000. That is equivalent to three caballerias. I often tell the comrades of the miscellaneous crops enterprises to look at the Gomez brothers' boniato fields there. They plant potatoes, and they have spent 20 years rotating potatoes and boniato on the same land. They get very high potato harvests even in bad years. This year, which was bad because of all the problems I mentioned caused by the weather, they harvested less than what they traditionally harvest, but they got [number indistinct] quintals per caballeria. They have good techniques, a good level of fertilization. They use a little more fertilizer than usual. That gives results, but now we have to continue to investigate what to do if we have less fertilizer. In any case, if we have to give someone the fertilizer they need, [words indistinct] who get the maximum from that fertilizer.

But, well, I was talking about the efforts that must be made, and [words indistinct] There are no machines for planting yuca, so it must be done by hand. In past centuries they invented slavery, annihilated the Indians, and brought Africans here. They enslaved them [words indistinct] to make them do what we have to do. The developed countries bring in people from the Third World. In Europe they bring in Turks, people from Algeria and those African countries, to do the hardest work. In the United States they bring in Haitians and Mexicans, Latin Americans. There are hundreds of thousands, millions.

When [words indistinct] hard work, and there they work with air conditioning. [words indistinct] tens of thousands of Mexicans growing vegetables. But what is the temperature there now, in May? It is 15 degrees. That is like working in air conditioning. But here, how hot is it? It is 30 degrees. What is the relative humidity? It is 85 or 90 percent. [words indistinct] planting boniato, 600,000 plants per caballeria. Do you understand?

We have to be aware of that reality. Who is going to do it? We are. Who can do it? We can. That is why I respect that I am inspired by many comrades who have come to the capital and become intellectuals, even doctors and everything, planting boniato. They come for two weeks. There are some who have come four times a year to do it. They really work. I have never seen the voluntary workers working as they are now. You know that. I know it because I visit the camps and talk with them. I know that at 0530 they are up. We have tried to create the best possible living conditions for them, but they have to do hard work.

These are our realities. That is how we have to produce our food, but we are not going to become discouraged by it. I think we have enough energy and courage, and good enough health, because in spite of the fact ....[changes thought] The ones who did this work before were the pariahs, the unemployed, and often immigrants were brought in from Haiti and Jamaica for the hard work. But as the population grew, it was Cubans who did the work, but Cubans who were going hungry, the unemployed, for a much lower population. Now we have to ensure milk for the children [words indistinct] and malanga for each one. We must ensure food for the entire population.

That is why we have to make this effort, and ask everyone to make a great effort. Yesterday we asked it of all the agricultural workers, the cooperative members, the farmers. On 23 May we will have a meeting [words indistinct] credit and service cooperatives. So we are coordinating the efforts of the state enterprises, the enterprises, the cooperatives, and the independent farmers in this historic task of providing for the capital. We are already producing much more, but it is not enough. I have already mentioned the problems we have had with some crops and the climate. Although we are producing more, it is not enough.

It is thought that perhaps by September there will be about 200,000 quintals of bananas per month. We have to reach at least [number indistinct] quintals per month, when we have all the plantations in operation. We will see if we get 600,000 quintals. [words indistinct] The capital still needs a great effort, sacrifices by the people in the provinces who have to send us [words indistinct] more than half of what is consumed [words indistinct] honor of the farmers and agricultural workers of Havana Province to provide not only for the 700,000 inhabitants (?in the province)—this is more or less what there is—but also the 2.1 million inhabitants of the capital. Almost 3 million people must be provided for. It requires a serious, technical, organized, efficient, productive effort. Is that clear?

In addition, the province produces more than 600,000 tons of sugar. There are more than 100,000 hectares in Havana Province devoted to sugarcane. The province is a great sugar producer. Although we have taken area away from cane, we want production to continue to increase through new techniques. [words indistinct] that is of great relevance, great practical meaning. When I came by here I passed through the research center. I stopped for three minutes; I think I arrived late. I slipped into the (?Liliana Dimitrova) Research Center. They are developing new crop varieties. I was there for a few minutes and I said I would come back later; I was going to this ceremony.

Yesterday I was talking at a cooperative that produces watercress, and I asked them if any research center was helping them. They said no. That cooperative, which along with the independent farmers produces about 30,000 quintals, intends to reach 100,000 quintals. Watercress is good; it has iodine and iron. I went to the (?Liliana Dimitrova), and was talking with the people

there, and the INIFAT [Institute for Basic Research in Tropical Agriculture]. They have to help in developing more productive varieties. They have a good variety. Each of the crops must be supported by technology and science.

It seems that at a time like this, at a stage like this, holding a ceremony like this one has great meaning, great revolutionary content. It has been very just to recall the vanguard workers, because the vanguard workers are like the standard-bearers in battle. They are the ones who set an example for others. Therefore, I congratulate all those who received awards or decorations; all the farmers of the agricultural production cooperatives, the miscellaneous crops cooperatives and those with all crops; all the farmers of the credit and service cooperatives; and all the agricultural workers and cadres who devote their efforts to this noble task of producing food for the people.

That is why we also say, with more conviction than ever: Socialism or death, fatherland or death, we will overcome! [applause]

96th Anniversary of Jose Marti's Death Marked

PA2305173191 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Ceremonies marking the 96th anniversary of Jose Marti's death in Dos Rios began this morning in Santiago de Cuba with the placing of a wreath from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro on the mausoleum at the Santa Ifigenia cemetery, where Marti's remains rest.

In accordance with tradition, the Cuban flag draping his tomb was replaced by the flag that flew over the area where, on a day like today, Marti was killed. The flag was brought here by distinguished youths.

Other wreaths from political, mass, and state organizations were placed on his tomb, facing the sun and his fatherland's freedom.

Castro Meets With Chinese Communist Delegation

FL2305181391 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with the Chinese Communist Party [CCP] delegation headed by Zhao Zongnai, a member of the CCP Central Committee and deputy director of the Central Committee Department of Organization. During the meeting, there was a wide-ranging exchange of views on and experiences in party work in both countries and points of view about the internal situations and the future development of cooperation between the PCC and the CCP. This CCP delegation returned to their country yesterday after a one-week visit to Cuba.

Shortly before their departure, Zhao Zongnai, the head of the delegation, made statements for this news program.

[Begin Zhao recording in Chinese with consecutive translation into Spanish] We have seen that in spite of the difficulties, the Cuban people under the leadership of the PCC are persisting with the socialist path and the revolution. We feel great admiration for the Cuban people. We want to transmit our warmest and most fraternal greetings to the Cuban people. We hope with all our hearts that the Cuban people will have greater successes. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Assembly President Meets With Soviet Delegation

PA2305145791 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Juan Escalona, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, met on 21 May with a Soviet delegation that is visiting our country at the invitation of the executive. The delegation is headed by Sergey Bratvenchko, a deputy and Ukranian Supreme Soviet member, and also includes journalist (Igor Brychkov).

During their meeting, Escalona and the members of the Soviet delegation exchanged information on the economic and political situations in the USSR and in Cuba. They also discussed the parliamentary relations between both nations.

PRC Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

FL2305013791 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 May 91

[Report by Gisela Bell Heredia]

[Text] I just returned from the airport where a welcoming ceremony was held for the PRC parliamentary delegation, headed by Chen Muhua, vice chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and president of the National Federation of Chinese Women. The Chinese parliament member was welcomed by Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], and Chinese Ambassador to Cuba Chen Jiuchang.

Speaking to the press, the representative of the Chinese parliament expressed the reasons for her visit and her first impressions.

[Begin recording] [Chen Muhua in Chinese with simultaneous Spanish translation] It pleases us very much to have the opportunity and honor of visiting Cuba at the invitation of the ANPP of this noble country. We have brought with us warm and cordial greetings and the best wishes of the PRC National People's Congress, as well as of the Chinese people, to the ANPP of Cuba and the Cuban people.

We also express our sincere gratitude and our deep emotion for the warm welcome given by the comrade president and also by the vice president and other Cuban comrades.

[Escalona] We have done nothing more than attempt to show the satisfaction we feel with the visit of this Chinese parliament delegation and hope that in the few days they are going to remain in Cuba they can get an idea of how our country is, what tasks we are involved in, and what we are doing for our fatherland's socialism. [end recording]

The agenda prepared for the Chinese parliamentary delegation includes the laying of a floral wreath at the foot of the monument to our national hero, Jose Marti; official talks with the president of our National Assembly; meetings with Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women; as well as a broad program of visits to places of economic and social interest. Chen Muhua will also receive the Havana Illustrious Guest Medal.

Attorney General Met by DPRK President

FL2205204391 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1959 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] DPRK President Kim Il-song met today in Pyongyang with Cuban Attorney General Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa, who is heading an Attorney General's Office delegation visiting the country. The meeting was held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign minister of the DPRK; Han Sang-kyu, procurator general; and Cuban Ambassador Juan Jose Leon, among others, were present at the meeting.

De la Cruz Ochoa arrived in the DRPK yesterday from the PRC. During his four-day stay, he will exchange views and experiences with local authorities. The Cuban attorney general and his DPRK counterpart held [words indistinct] talks and discussed matters of interest.

Ethiopia's Mengistu Abandoned Socialism

FL2205161591 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 22 May 91

[Commentary: "Our Opinion" by Ariel Larramendi Villafane]

[Text] The news of the resignation of the president of Ethiopia, Mengistu Haile Mariam, and his departure from the country for Harare via Kenya took many by surprise if we recall the efforts of the African leader, the significance of those efforts, and his repeated declarations to dedicate his life to the well-being of his people. Now it is time for history and the African people of Ethiopia to evaluate his actions and give him his proper place in history.

According to an official communique, Mengistu resigned with the objective of avoiding a bloodbath and of bringing all sectors in the conflict together in London to arrive at an end to the difficulties. Putting aside all rhetoric, it seems impossible to us that given the severe and irreversible crisis which Ethiopia is suffering, worsened now by the resignation of Mengistu, that the secessionist groups will not make the most of the opportunity that they can. Some groups are even now conspiring against the very sovereignty of the country.

Let us review some history: in March of last year, a plenum of the Central Committee of the ruling Ethiopian Workers Party decided to open the doors of the country to foreign private investors, renouncing the socialist system that had overthrown the feudal monarchy some 15 years before. With the change in government policy, the country began aligning itself with the United States and Israel. Reversing itself on the strategy that had been practiced for many years, fundamentally during the monarchy of Haile Selassie, the U.S. demanded a solution to the problem of Eritrea, a region that demanded to secede from Ethiopia. However, the advancement of the separatist Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front turned into a powerful offensive that has taken over great areas of territory, and is now applying pressure at several vital, national points. The advancements during the last three months in the Eritrean offensives, as well as those of other fronts, such as the Tigrean People's Liberation Front and the Oromo Front, operating within the Democratic Revolutionary Front, have made it possible to cut off the only source of maritime supply, the port of Asmara in the seccionist region of Eritrea.

The threat of the combating forces has now fallen over the capital, Addis Ababa. At the same time, Israel, hoping to recover some of the advantages it enjoyed during the monarchy of Haile Selassie, gave material assistance, including military aid and advisors, in the effort against the separatists. A traditional contradiction is seen anew in the situation—the Arab countries supported the Eritreans, whom they consider to be of Arab extraction, while the Ethiopian Government aligned itself with Israel.

To top it all off, the Persian Gulf War allowed the Ethiopean Government to align itself with the United States against Iraq. All of this situation, along with the problems such as the chronic famines, terrible poverty in vast regions, and severe draughts, limited the options of the Ethiopean revolutionary leadership.

Today, just one week before the next meeting in London between the contending Ethiopean parties, under the auspices of the U.S., it is impossible to make predictions. Sources of the Democratic Liberation Front have said that they will not slow their offensive and their combatants are now some 55 km from Addis Ababa. It does not seem possible that they can be stopped and even less now that the resignation of Mengistu may have caused destabilization in the government forces. The next few days will be decisive.

Reportage on Almeida Visit to Angola 22 May

WA2305184591

For reportage on the one-day visit by Vice President Juan Almeida to the People's Republic of Angola, including his attendance at the farewell ceremony marking the departure of the last Cuban internationalist soliders, please see the 23 May issue of the Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT and susequent issues.

* UNEAC National Council Agenda Outlined

91P40275A Havana GRANMA in Spanish
26 Apr 91 p 4

[Text] The UNEAC [National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists] National Council concluded its meeting yesterday following two days of sessions and after reaching several decisions.

Another meeting of cultural critics, researchers, and scholars will take place in June to initiate a discussion of the mission and responsibility of artists now and in the immediate future. This was announced by Armando Hart, a member of the politburo and minister of culture, in his closing speech before the Council.

According to Hart, this meeting would be a good setting in which to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Fidel's speech "Message to Intellectuals" and, at the same time, an opportunity to demonstrate the extent of the creativity, moral capacity and talent of our writers and artists which allows them to contribute intelligent ideas and solutions to the problems and challenges of the current period.

The minister shared the view of the majority of the Council's participants on the pressing need to foster a permanent setting for studying and exchanging ideas about what has occurred and what will occur during the rest of the century. Discussion and dialogue would be an effective means of responding to deviations which might appear in the midst of difficult circumstances as a result of the assault being launched upon us by imperialism.

Other topics on the Council's agenda yesterday concerned the restrictions on paper and the publication of books. Several members of the Council suggested possible solutions for guaranteeing continuity in artistic work.

Finally, the participants decided to propose to the presidency that several members form a commission which, together with the presidency, would enhance the document submitted yesterday for consideration by the Council. This document would briefly discuss the correspondence between activity and intellectual attitude, on the one hand, and the country's situation on the other; it would also enumerate a series of practical proposals to respond to the difficulties imposed by the economic situation and its repercussions in the artistic sector. It has to do with reevaluating the document, enhancing it, and making it more precise and illuminating.

In addition, they agreed to announce two messages: one of solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico in view of the recognition of Spanish as the official language of that country, and another directed towards the intellectuals of the world.

A decision was also made to carry out an immediate and detailed study of each of the art forms, an assessment which would emphasize the conceptual aspect and the state of our literature, music, theater, and the remaining art forms which enrich our cultural panorama.

El Salvador

Cristiani Addresses Nation on Peace Process

PA2305223091 San Salvador Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 May 91

["Address to the nation" by President Alfredo Cristiani from the Presidential Palace in San Salvador—live]

[Text] Good evening, Salvadoran people. Over the past few days, all the media have commented on events surrounding the peace process and the progress that is expected in the near future.

This is why I would like to take a little of your time tonight to explain fully and broadly the peace process after the past meeting in Mexico, along with our hopes for the future. I would also like to explain the events that have taken place in the country since the conclusion of the Mexico meeting and the emergence of the agreements, and prior to the forthcoming meeting.

As you may recall, the Mexico meeting generated great expectations and hope, because, first of all, for the first time within this lengthy process, we narrowed down the issues that we would deal with in the first phase of the process, thinking that this reduced agenda might lead to the end of the armed conflict or a cease-fire.

This raised hopes because the Salvadoran people obviously want the violence in the country to end. This is the topic they want us to discuss. The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] itself, using the public media, announced in Managua, Nicaragua, in March that it had adopted a new position. This new position was that it had agreed to follow a condensed agenda to seek and achieve a cease-fire.

They reduced the agenda to three basic topics: first, the Salvadoran Armed Forces; second, the constitutional reform; and third, the cease-fire procedure itself. They went even further; they established a date, an objective date to reach a cease-fire. They said that they would be willing to reach a cease-fire prior to 30 May. Thus we agreed to the meeting in Mexico, which began on 4 April. We developed the three topics agreed upon, and we agreed to create bodies that would deal simultaneously with the subjects so that progress could be made rapidly and we could attain our goal.

There was a moment when the discussion had to focus on the constitutional reforms because, as you all know, we had to take advantage of the fact that the past Legislative Assembly was still in session, which made it possible to present the constitutional reforms to the previous assembly so that their ratification would be pending in the current Legislative Assembly. This is why the cease-fire and Armed Forces issues were set aside. Nevertheless, I must explain one thing: Both topics have been widely discussed within the process. I can tell you that within the subject matter of these two broad topics, many agreements have been reached. In other words, there is not much left to agree upon. On the contrary, there is little because most of the issues have been discussed previously. Thus, the Mexico Agreement emerged.

I would like to read to you some paragraphs of the final Mexican Agreement to see what our goal is, or in this case what both parties have agreed upon. The first part states: The parties have committed themselves to continue the negotiations in the framework of a fixed agenda. The Mexican Declaration means that we will continue negotiations within this fixed agenda to reach a cease- fire. I repeat, the issues are: the Armed Forces, constitutional reforms—this has already been dealt with—and the cease-fire issue.

To conclude, the agreement also states: There are plans for holding a brief direct meeting, of an organizational nature, in early May, and for the renewal of direct negotiations during the second fortnight. As usual, neither the date nor the place of the negotiations will be announced beforehand.

Nevertheless, before dealing with these issues I would like to clear up a couple of things that have been coming up for debate in the few past days. As far as the ratification of the constitutional reforms are concerned, there are persons who think that the reforms have to ratified right now. Furthermore, we know that groups who are linked to or sympathize with the FMLN have been pressuring for or expressing themselves in favor of these ratifications. I would like to read the text of the Mexican Agreement on this issue: Matters related to the ratification of these reforms will be considered during the negotiations that take place in the framework of the schedule for implementing future agreements. This means that the ratification of the constitutional reforms remains pending. The date of the ratification will be debated until we reach an agreement that sets a timetable with exact dates on which all of the agreements previously reached will be fulfilled.

This is why we believe that the position adopted by the government is neither political, whimsical, nor partisan, as it has been accused. Our position is that the ratification of the reforms, at least as far as the peace process is concerned, is still pending. For that reason, we are not now going to support another position, which would represent wavering on the part of the government. We must always support the commitments we made when we signed this accord in Mexico. Therefore, we want to dispel any doubts you may have that we are politically motivated or partisan. As a matter of fact, I think that the political parties, or the sectors that claim to want peace and support the peace process, should perhaps consider that the best thing would be to support what is taking place within the peace process, since the political parties have already participated in this process, something which, as I said before, represented a valuable contribution to the Mexico accord.

Also, the government has been accused of not keeping its commitment on the matter of constitutional amendments. We are going to read what the government pledged to do: The Salvadoran Government solemnly pledges to promote the approval of constitutional amendments at the current legislature. It is very clear here that the government pledged to promote the reforms. It could not have been expressed in any other way, although some may have thought that the government was going to guarantee the approval of the amendments agreed on in Mexico. This power falls solely and exclusively within the purview of the Legislative Assembly.

The executive branch or the Presidency lacks the power to tell it or command it to approve this or that other thing. Lawmakers have their own independence, and they approved what they deemed was the most advisable. In practice, the amendments passed by the previous legislature really reflect all the fundamental aspects of the accord on the matter of constitutional amendments.

The process has also made substantial progress because on 20 May the United Nations approved, through the Security Council, the creation of Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador]. This is the office the United Nations will install in El Salvador to verify compliance with the different agreements that may be reached as part of the peace process. The United Nations has informed us officially that Onusal will begin to set up its office in our country on 1 July.

This development constitutes yet another step forward in the peace process, in the sense that agreements will begin to be verified; namely, and as the first point, the agreement on human rights. Up to here, we can see that the peace process was and is making progress, and making progress in fundamental areas. That is why we must now analyze the FMLN attitude following the Mexico accord. I think it is important for all Salvadorans to be aware of the stances adopted by different sectors, or what stance the Salvadoran Government or the FMLN may adopt on the matter.

What has happened since the Mexico Agreement? First of all, we think that the FMLN has violated the signed accord. As I said before, the next meeting was to be held in early May and the main meeting in the middle of May. The reason the initial meeting was set for the first week in May was to make the most of the mid-May meeting—the idea was to see if 30 May could be the date for a cease-fire agreement. What did the FMLN do instead? The FMLN postponed the first meeting in Mexico until 14-15 May. This is not a serious attitude. If we signed an agreement, even this small point, which seems unimportant because it is not part of the actual reforms, is actually an important one because this is a signed agreement. We need to give the peace process full credibility in order to avoid future problems. As it turned out, it was impossible to use the second half of May as originally planned, therefore, the next meeting will be held in Caracas, Venezuela on 25 May. In other words, this new round of talks begins in three days.

It is worrisome to hear statements from Shafik Handal that a cease-fire cannot be reached at this upcoming meeting. Frankly, in a negotiation, it is impossible to say beforehand whether agreements will be reached, unless the FMLN delegation goes to the meeting with the attitude of not reaching any. This is the bad part about statements like these: The FMLN's attitude suggests that they no longer want to adhere to the agreements. In fact, the agreements are closer to a unilateral commitment on their part, because, according to what they said in Managua, they set the 30 May deadline themselves.

The FMLN's violent attitude since the Mexico meeting is what casts the most doubt on their intentions. We have seen the FMLN's unnecessary and unmerciful attacks on our country's power system. They have increased their use of mines, and once again, have begun to use car bombs, as we have regrettably seen in Santa Tecla in Ciudad Merliot, where several people were wounded and one was killed. The FMLN has gone even further by violating unilateral commitments made to the UN secretary general. The FMLN had agreed, among other things, not to attack civilian targets or stores. Now we see them bombing car dealerships, banks, and anything else they can think of. We believe that there is a reason for this attitude, but only they know what it is.

In addition, the FMLN has plans to generate instability all over the country. We have seen how they use FMLN infiltrators to encourage political strikes and land seizures in the cities and farms. The FMLN has even gone so far as to threaten mayors and judges.

I said that they have gone too far because frankly, their position is incomprehensible. They said that they would support the 10 March elections and they endorsed those elections along with the other political parties. There has been broad participation, even from the political parties that were associated with them in the past, and which today are participating in the democratic life, and even from other parties that are still associated with them and which have won legislative positions. Many mayors were picked in those elections. Hence, their attitude is incomprehensible. Their attitudes and promises are inconsistent, or maybe their promises are intended to please or impress someone.

We believe that promoting instability is detrimental to the peace process. Although I am not a lawyer, I would like to share with you a thought that I heard from a friend who is one. He said that force without law is barbaric, but law without force is impotent.

We, the government of El Salvador, believe in that. We are going to apply the law with sufficient strength in our country so that the laws will not be violated. A respect for the de jure system of a country is essential for a peaceful and harmonious coexistence. As long as we all know how to respect that de jure system, as long as we all

respect the rights of others, we will all manage to live in a harmonious and peaceful manner.

That is why we say that such attitudes are completely opposed to the peace process. That is also why the government has decided to enforce strictly the law, with the necessary force that the law requires. In this manner, the law will be abided by in our country. That is the basic pillar of what we all want, or at least what the majority wants, which is to live in peace and harmony with all Salvadorans.

In view of the FMLN attitudes, we wish to call on the people not to lend themselves to be used by the FMLN to generate such attitudes. The Salvadoran Government also wants to state clearly to the FMLN that these attitudes will not exert pressure on us or make us change our attitudes and our stands in the peace process. We have always been flexible in the face of what are reasonable petitions. We have been flexible when it is a matter of working toward the goals of the process, as the Geneva Agreement says.

We will watch over the respect for human rights. Onusal will shortly come here to verify the respect for human rights. We also believe that we must consolidate our democracy, and the constitutional reforms are evidence that we are heading toward this consolidation.

We also want to achieve a reconciliation. To that effect, everything the FMLN is doing is contrary to reconciliation. Therefore, we cannot justify in any manner this violent attitude of the FMLN. We are not the only ones saying this. There are other groups that, thank God, are beginning to publicly tell the FMLN its actions are unjustified. It cannot be said that these actions by the FMLN have military objectives. They have absolutely nothing to do with anything military.

The people, particularly the civilians, always end up being the affected ones. So many have been wounded and killed by the bombs placed near the power towers. How many civilians have been wounded and killed in the attacks against the dams, in the car bomb attacks? How many civilians have been wounded in the attacks against towns where there are no military garrisons?

Gentlemen, that is why we believe everyone should voice a stand against violence, as it is not justified at all. The Catholic Church has said that violence is not justified. Even those who at one time were able to justify violent attitudes, cannot justify such actions now due to the changes which have taken place in the peace process.

In the UN Security Council resolution creating Onusal, the international community specifically said the following: We are deeply concerned over the increasing violence in El Salvador that seriously affects the civilian population.

The FMLN really cannot say that this is because the government and the Armed Forces are attacking it. We feel that it is our responsibility and duty to act against the FMLN's actions as long as they commit violent and terrorist actions. That is why we have said that the only way to stop this is by reaching the agreements as soon as possible.

In addition, the UN Security Council also asked its members to urge both parties to continue with the current negotiations in a flexible manner, concentrating on the subjects that were agreed upon in the Caracas timetable in order to promptly attain a political agreement on the Armed Forces and the necessary agreements to put an end to the armed confrontation.

In other words, the international community is also demanding an end to this unjustified wave of violence. But perhaps the most important thing to remember is that all the Salvadoran people are crying out for peace, because they do not want to see their kids lose an arm or a leg to a mine. Salvadorans no longer want to see their homes destroyed during the attacks by the FMLN. Salvadorans want to live in peace so that they can solve the many problems that exist in our country in a different atmosphere. I am referring to an atmosphere of tranquillity, in which problems can be resolved through dialogue, communication, and understanding. This is what the Salvadoran people and the international community are demanding at this time.

We have to ask ourselves one question: If the FMLN wants peace, why does it continue to murder, threaten, and destroy the country? We have to ask ourselves whether it is beneficial to join the peaceful life of a destroyed country, a country with so many problems in the hearts of its families who have seen their children die or their father or mother being killed? I leave this question for the FMLN to ponder so that they will change their irrational attitude.

We are asking the FMLN to reach cease-fire agreements during the upcoming Caracas meeting. We are asking the FMLN not to be afraid of reaching cease-fire agreements. The cease-fire is the beginning of peace in our country, a peace we will continue to consolidate during the second phase of the peace process. We will strengthen peace even more when the country is functioning in an atomsphere of tranquillity, and we can all understand that we must respect the rights of others. Only then will our nation and the Salvadoran people, who should be the sole winner of the peace process, will prosper. This should move the FMLN to think. I reiterate my request to the FMLN so that they will stop these unjustifiable actions. I urge the FMLN to sit down and think about what everybody wants from it, namely an end to violence.

The FMLN will meet a government commission that is willing to work around the clock, if you will, in order to attain the cease-fire agreement as soon as possible. We must point out that the government commission will maintain reasonable positions, which will be useful for the Salvadoran society in the future, in accordance with what most Salvadorans want.

Salvadoran people, the Government of El Salvador continues to do everything that is necessary in order to give you what you most want, peace in our country. Therefore, we request that the Salvadoran people be supportive, confident, calm, and patient so that we can carry out this effort, because the sole beneficiary of this effort should be the Salvadoran people.

Dear friends, let us hope and praise the Lord so that a cease-fire agreement can be reached during the upcoming peace talks. Let us praise the Lord so that he will enlighten both the FMLN and the government representatives so that they can be flexible enough to reach the agreement that our fatherland needs.

Salvadoran people, we should be united in this struggle for peace. All Salvadorans should be praying for a prompt cease-fire. If we all work to achieve this end, we will make it. Thank you very much, and may God bless you all.

Defense Ministry Communique on 'Terrorist Plan'

PA2305215191 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 21 May 91 pp 3, 21

[Text] The Armed Forces have reported an intensification of terrorist actions prior to the beginning of talks in Venezuela between the government delegation and the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front - Revolutionary Democratic Front] terrorist delegation.

A communique issued on 20 May by the Defense Ministry states:

"The Salvadoran Armed Forces inform the Salvadoran people of the discovery of a generalized plan of terrorism to intimidate the Salvadoran Government and people on the occasion of the dialogue scheduled to begin on 24 May in Caracas, Venezuela.

"The following four points constitute a general outline of the terrorist plan:

"1. An intensification of sabotage on electrical power to paralyze factories, increase unemployment, render homes and streets insecure, and exasperate and frighten the civilian population.
"2. The promotion of illegal strikes, beginning with one by the government employees, to paralyze the public sector's income and hinder state services to Salvadorans.
"3. The training of peasants and residents of poor areas to perpetrate crimes, such as the occupation of lands belonging to others, thereby agitating them and leading to a confrontation with the authorities.

"4. The threatening of mayors and justices of the peace with death, thereby hindering judicial safety and the order required by civilian life.

"The Salvadoran Armed Forces, upon informing the national and international community of this terrorism, which has already begun and which seriously casts doubt on the FMLN's good faith and political resolve at the negotiating table, calls upon the Salvadoran people to not allow themselves to be taken by surprise by organizations that are linked to or manipulated by the FMLN. These organizations are taking advantage of our country's social problems instead of seeking peaceful solutions, and have resorted to terror and violence in an attempt to satisfy their own interests.

"The Armed Forces reiterate their resolve to continue contributing to the country's pacification and ensuring respect for the laws that are currently in force."

FMLN Front Reports Army Repression

PA2405030391 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 22 May 91

[Communique issued by the Eastern Front of the 3d Military Region of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, National Army for Democracy, dated 21 May]

[Text] Communique:

1. Combined 3d Infantry Brigade and 4th Military Detachment troops started an invasion plan on 29 March 1991, in the jurisdictions of Guatajiagua, Yamabal, and Sensembra, the upper areas of Cacaguatique Hill, Morazan Department. These territories have been controlled by the FMLN for the last decade.

2. The enemy plan is aimed at eliminating, in the negotiations, the existence of zones controlled by the FMLN in Cacaguatiqyue Hill and other areas of the country. The enemy plan in all the mentioned jurisdictions is accompanied by another plan to persecute, arrest, threaten, and intimidate the civilian population which lives in the Cacaguatique Hill area. The goal is to force the people to cooperate and participate with the Armed Forces, through intimidation and the military presence.

3. The people living in the Cacaguatique Hill area are desperate because the Armed Forces have used all kinds of torture. This represents a new violation of the human rights of people living in those areas.

4. The antidemocratic Armed Forces' invasion of our territory, with a plan that includes arrests and threats from the government and the Armed Forces' high command, proves the desperation it feels because it has lost control of the territory and because it lacks the people's support both in the cities and the countryside.

5. Between 29 March 1991 and today, these troops have arrested 17 persons in El Volcan, Los Avelines, Guarumal, Meanguera, and San Bartolo. Many of the arrested people have been released due to the mediation of humanitarian organizations, but the authorities are still holding many people, and there is no information about their condition, until now.

6. We issue an appeal to humanitarian organizations, the archbishop, and the non-government human rights commission and International Red Cross, urging them to intervene so that the population does not continue to suffer from the antidemocratic Armed Forces' violations.

Eastern Front, 21 May 1991
Third Military Region,
National Army For Democracy,
Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front

Summary of Recent FMLN Activity Outlined

PA2405013491

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 14 May carries a four-minute segment on clashes between Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, guerrillas and the Salvadoran Armed Forces. The first report says that "on 12 May, the 4th Infantry Brigade sustained two casualties, one of them a sergeant, when the soldiers walked into a mine field, in El Cielo Mountain, Concepcion Quezaltepeque Jurisdiction, Chalatenango Deparment."

Another report from Chalatenango states: "The 4th Infantry Brigade's Cayahuanca Battalion sustained two casualties on 10 May in the area known as Plan Barrios, Dulce Nombre de Maria Jurisdiction." "On 12 May, at 1600, sharpshooters fired at an enemy unit belonging to the 1st Infantry Brigade, in the El Rincon Canton, Cuscatlan Department. One soldier was seriously wounded," Radio Venceremos reports.

Reading a report from La Paz, the rebel station notes that "on 13 May, at 1020, National Army for Democracy, END, members suprised a Prant Battalion enemy unit that belonged to the Armed Forces Engineers Military Detachment while the soldiers were torturing someone," near a farm in Zacatecoluca Jurisdiction. In the ensuing clash, the tortured person was killed, and the "enemy sustained five casualties."

Paris AFP in Spanish at 0206 GMT on 14 May transmits a 300-word dispatch on a report issued on Monday, 13 May, by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, on fighting over the past weekend. Coprefa says that "six soldiers of the 6th Infantry Brigade were killed and 14 were wounded in fierce fighting in Moropala Canton, Usulutan Department."

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish on 14 May on page two carries a 225-word report citing information provided by Coprefa. The report says that two civilians were wounded by shrapnel during an FMLN attack on 11 May, in Santa Elena Farm, Nuevo Cuscatlan, La Libertad Department. In another action, "the 3d Infantry Brigade said that two terrorists were killed in combat that took place around the town of San Luis de la Reina, San Miguel Department." Coprefa also reported that "five FMLN rebels were wounded in a clash with Atlacatl Battalion, near Suchitoto, Cuscatlan Department."

San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 15 May airs a four-minute report which says that "the guerrillas sustained 11 casualties in the past 24 hours in clashes with Military Detachment No. 1 soldiers in Chalatenango Department." In a recorded statement, the commander, Colonel Luis Mariano Turcios, says one soldier was killed and six were wounded. He adds that the fighting took place in Las Vueltas area, southern El Picacho Mountain and Pandora. Radio Cadena YSU notes that "the guerrillas reported killing 11 soldiers and wounding 37 of the Sierpe Battalion in the clashes."

Citing the 5th Infantry Brigade, the radio station reports that "one Jose Simeon Canas Battalion soldier was killed during a guerrilla attack on the 15 September Dam." In addition, four soldiers and two civilians were wounded.

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 16 May airs a seven-minute segment detailing results of different FMLN attacks on the Army. The rebel station reads a "war bulletin," which indicates that "END units began a successful attack on the 15 September Dam at 0200 on 15 May." According to this report, "considerable damage" was done to the dam and that damage caused a blackout.

The war bulletin indicates other END units attacked three garrisons that house the Jose Simeon Canas Battalion of the 5th Infantry Brigade, "including the command post, which was partially destroyed." It adds that in the ensuing clash "we inflicted approximately 11 casualties," and the following material was taken: "one M-79 grenade launcher with 20 grenades, two cartridge pouches for M-60 machine guns, three knapsacks, and military gear."

The rebel radio station reports on an attack on Leon Battalion soldiers at 0430 on 15 May, in Agua Charca Village, San Miguel Jurisdiction. The fighting ended at 0615, and "we can confirm inflicting seven casualties." "Our units recovered two knapsacks, one M-79 grenade launcher and (?nine) grenades, three cartridge pouches for M-60 machine guns, one M-70 machine gun, 500 5.56-mm cartridges, berets, uniforms, etc. Nobody was wounded or killed on our side," the report states.

Continuing with a "war report from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, in heroic Guazapa Hill sector," on an attack on Atlacatl Battalion soldiers at 0900 on 14 May, near La Mora Village, El Zapote Canton, Suchitoto Jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department, the rebel station indicates the Army sustained 10 casualties, and that FMLN member Andres was killed. At 1600 on 13 May, according to Radio Farabundo, two Atlacatl Battalion corporals were wounded when their unit walked into a mine field in Gallinero Village, Guazapa Jurisdiction.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 16 May carries eight minutes of news on different actions carried out by FMLN rebels. A report from La Union Department says that one Salvadoran Air Force helicopter was damaged by END antiaircraft units. "At 0440 on 14 May, END anti-aircraft

units attacked a helicopter that was providing supplies to Military Detachment No. 3 troops. This happened between Upire and Monteca, Nueva Esparta Jurisdiction," Radio Venceremos states, adding that "the helicopter was heavily damaged."

Information from Chalatenango states that "END forces clashed with 2d Infantry Brigade troops in El Encumbrado Canton, Agua Caliente Jurisdiction. As a result of the fighting that took place today at 0600, the army sustained one casualty."

San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 16 May carries a four-minute report that cites "military and rebel sources" as saying that "fighting between the Army and the guerrillas had claimed at least eight lives and left more than 50 people wounded in the past hours in different points of the country.

Coprefa adds that "two soldiers and three rebels were killed in recent fighting in five out of the 14 departments of the country. In addition, 21 servicemen and three civilians were wounded." The radio station goes on to say that the FMLN "threatened the judges and mayors of zones it claims to control with death," since the rebels feel the government may use these officials to make the point that "the FMLN has no control over these areas, Commander Dimas told some reporters in the country's eastern sector."

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 17 May carries a 10-minute series of reports on different FMLN operations in several areas of the country. The first two reports come from the Modesto Ramirez Joint Command, Guazapa Hill sector. It states that on 16 May shaprshooters harassed 1st Infantry Brigade troops who were in La Cruz Village and Las Lanchitas, San Jose Guayabal Jurisdiction, inflicting three casualties.

On 15 May, Radio Farabundo indicates, "END sharphooters harassed 1st Infantry Brigade soldiers who were in Loma Chata Village, San Jose Guayabal Jurisdiction." As a result of the "day-long" harrasment operation, the Army sustained three casualties.

The following report indicates that on 16 May at 1430, END forces "inflicted two casualties on Atlacatl Battalion troops in El Corozal Farm, Platanares Canton, Suchitoto Jurisdiction." "Also that day at 1130," the rebel station states, "our units fought with two paratroopers battalions that had entered Suchito." This battalion sustained two casualties.

Reading other reports from Chalatenango, Radio Farabundo Marti states that at 1600 on 16 May, END forces harassed Army troops near Los Amates, and "we inflicted two casualties on Military detachment No. 1." The station goes on to state the Cavalry Battalion sustained two more casualties on 16 May in Gallinero Mountain. At 1430 on 16 May, "END carried out a surprise rifle attack on a 2d Infantry Brigade section near El Encumbrado Canton," inflicting one casualty.

In another FMLN operation in this area, at 1500 on 15 May, END units attacked Cayahuanca Battalion soldiers in the El Comun Mountain, Dulce Nombre de Maria. "In this attack, the 4th Infantry Brigade sustained two casualties, one being a lieutenant." Also that day at 1200, fighting took place with Morazan Battalion soldiers in Botijon, Uruguay, and Volcan Villages, Javelines Canton, Guatajiajua, Morazan Department. In this attack, the Army sustained two casualties.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 18 May reports that the END has inflicted six casualties on the Cuscatlan Battalion of the 3d Infantry Brigade, in Villa El Triunfo, Usulutan Department. An END fighter was wounded in this clash.

On 16 May, END units inflicted three casualties on enemy forces in Dulce Nombre de Maria Municipality, Chalatenango Department, the report says. Later that day, on Acordion Hill, in Dulce Nombre de Maria Municipality, another casualty was inflicted on the enemy, according to the announcer.

The report notes that this morning, 17 May, END units ambushed a vehicle transporting police units on the San Salvador-Santa Ana highway, in the proximity of El Bejuco village, Santa Ana Municipality. The police suffered three casualties.

The announcer reports that the END inflicted 12 casualties on the enemy forces as a result of an attack at 2300 on 16 May on a 4th Infantry Brigade battalion, in Dulce Nombre de Maria, Chalatenango Department.

Today, 17 May, END units attacked enemy forces stealing wood in Sacatecoluca and the enemy suffered two dead and four wounded. Also, the report adds, END units inflicted four more casualties on the Army in Sensuntepeque, Cabanas Department.

The report adds that END units beat Atlacatl Battalion troops in Platanares, Suchitoto Municipality, Cuscatlan Department, and inflicted on this "priest-killer battalion" five casualties. In San Jose Guayabal Municipality, Usulutan Department, the enemy suffered four casualties when troops hit a mine field, the announcer reports.

San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 18 May reports that as a result of fighting yesterday in Chalatenango Department, one FMLN guerrilla died. The fighting took place in Agua Caliente, the report adds. In Suchitoto, Cuscatlan, the announcer reports, one soldier was wounded during a guerrilla ambush.

Paris AFP in Spanish at 0043 GMT on 18 May reports that "in recent hours" FMLN guerrillas have dynamited power towers throughout the country and San Salvador has been enduring severe power rationing.

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT 18 May reports that on 16 May END units attacked treasury police positions charged

with protecting the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission station in Agua Caliente, Soyapango Municipality. The END units then sabotaged the power station, partially destroying it. The enemy, the announcer reports, suffered 10 casualties.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 18 May reports that this past week, the END inflicted 208 casualties on the antidemocratic armed forces. The report notes that the enemy casualties include two officers. The announcer notes that during the same period, the rebel forces seized one M-60 machine gun, 15 rifles, two M-79 grenade launchers, one PRC-77 radio, 4,000 rounds of ammunition for rifles, and 22 knapsacks, and; the announcer notes, "since few aircrafts are being sent out, we damaged only one helicopter." The helicopter was damaged in northern La Union Department, the announcer explains. The report adds that one light tank and one truck were destroyed during the week.

The announcer reports that enemy forces engaged in aggression on FMLN-controlled territory "today had to go without food" because END units ambushed Lenca Battalion troops that were taking food from Las Delicias to the antidemocratic forces in Cacahuatique Hill. The troops in the ambushed vehicles fled in disarray and four of them were wounded, the announcer reports.

San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte in Spanish at 1843 GMT on 20 May carries a Coprefa report, according to which authorities from the country's eastern region are systematically issuing death threats against public officials and their relatives. The report notes that the FMLN has claimed the destruction of 52 power towers throughout the country. According to Coprefa's report, two FMLN guerrillas surrendered to Army units in the departments of San Miguel and Morazan. One of the two rebels turned in a rifle.

The Coprefa report notes that this past weekend, 10 FMLN terrorists died as a result of clashes with Army units in the departments of Chalatenango and Usulutan.

Meetings With Political Groups Said 'Positive'

PA2405024891 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 91

[Station editorial]

[Text] Since the negotiations began, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has deemed it necessary to include representatives from the different social and political forces in the country in the negotiations to reach agreements that would be approved by the majority of the population. The opposition of the sectors unaccustomed to the imposition has obstructed progress, forcing the people to use their right to participate in the fate of the country only as a slogan.

At this current juncture in the negotiations, in which a solution appears very likely, the role to be played by the social forces and political parties to advance in the agreements prior to reaching a cease-fire is of the utmost importance. Therefore, the FMLN terms as very positive the meetings between a delegation of the FMLN General Command and FDN [Nationalist Democratic Front] representatives, scheduled to take place on 20 May, as well as with political parties' representatives on 21 May.

During the past, meeting with the FMLN was cause for persecution and any contact had to be made secretly. Today, meeting with the FMLN is seen as a necessity, but like before, it causes persecution in the country, so these meetings have to take place abroad. The boundless freedom to act politically anywhere in the country is a right that must be established before any cease-fire. This will allow all sectors, including the FMLN, to benefit from social, economic, and political agreements as a means of resolving conflicts without using weapons.

We hope that the government takes into consideration the contributions being made now by all sectors outside of the negotiations. We trust that the attainment of a national consensus will continue to influence the democratization and demilitarization of the country, which the people will achieve by fighting in the streets.

Honduras

Callejas Agrees To Resume Reconciliation Talks

PA2205172891 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 20 May 91 p 20

[Text] President Rafael Leonardo Callejas said on 18 May that he accepts Carlos Flores Facusse's proposed resumption of the national dialogue on reconciliation.

"I would be pleased to," the president responded to the public proposal made by Flores Facusse, president of the Liberal Party's Central Executive Council.

"Today, 20 May, I am sending a very brief letter to Engineer Carlos Flores so that we can meet next week to establish the topics for the national dialogue's agenda."

Callejas attached no importance to the communique issued by the "Cinchonero" commanders saying that the differences this group may have with other sectors of Honduran society are not an important issue.

"This is how I view it. My policy is to incorporate all of our compatriots who were abroad back into Honduran society."

With regard to the return of four alleged "Cinchonero" commanders being a government publicity "show," President Callejas said that "if the Cinchoneros disagree with it, they must discuss it among themselves."

Callejas reiterated that the country's doors are still open "and with sufficient guarantees for everyone who wishes to join the country's civic, political, and social life."

"I am calling upon all of the sectors to join our new national life, and to settle our differences through dialogue," President Callejas concluded.

In a public communique, an alleged "Cinchonero" commander said on 17 May that the four commanders who returned to the country "were expelled in 1984," and that their return is a publicity show to favor the current government.

Callejas Admits Losing Support Since in Office

PA2305215291 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 May 91 p 2

[Report by Faustino Ordonez]

[Text] President Rafael Leonardo Callejas has admitted that he has lost some ground while in office, but noted that he expects to recover it during the course of his term.

He added: "Every president loses some ground, but such a loss is recoverable within a process. I certainly hope so, because these past years have been very difficult in the effort to rebuild the country's national economy."

The president rejected any possibility of losing his leadership within the National Party of Honduras [PNH], as some political groups maintain in the face of a confrontation between the legislative and judicial branches, whose leaders are seeking to become presidential candidates of the ruling party.

Callejas asked them to maintain their mutual respect to avoid "the subordination of one state branch to the other, as has happened in the past."

Anyone aspiring to become a candidate who does not accept the decisions of the PNH's Central Committee could be headed for problems and political risks in the near future.

Callejas forewarned: "Any candidate who does not accept his party's mandate is taking chances and could have problems in the future." He did not specify what kind of problems.

The Central Committee recently banned any personal political campaigning so as not to limit government actions.

"Any candidate doing things on his own, stepping outside party limits, would be acting against party interests," Callejas said. The president feels he has sufficient leadership inside the PNH to convince party members to stop their campaigning.

"It is my opinion," Callejas maintained, "that the president's leadership role within the party is quite clear."

He did not disclose which candidate he supports to run on the party ticket in the next general elections.

Callejas noted: "Who will I support? It has been said that I have a surprise, but I will of course support whoever is chosen by the party."

Such a decision will be the result of an internal electoral process, which, if eliminated, would only be due to the fact that the PNH came up with a potential candidate whose strength is such that he can lead the party.

He remarked: "I feel that internal elections should be held. There are many candidates for the party's nomination, but the important thing is that the PNH is a disciplined party. This is what we are seeking: To enforce discipline as a route to power."

Callejas warned: "Everyone within the PNH knows how it is run and operates. Those who step outside the central authority do not have many chances."

"Anyone who wishes to become the party's nominee but shows a rebellious attitude will not have access to the party's political information," Callejas noted. "He will not have the capacity to work—especially with regard to administrative matters—that those who stay within the party will have," he added.

As long as the PNH Central Committee resolution remains in effect, the president will dismiss any party member who is caught engaging in political campaigns for a certain candidate.

Guerrilla Group Threatens Transportation Leader

PA2405024991 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 21 May 91 p 7

[Text] Yesterday, the clandestine "Cinchonero" group threatened Andonie Castellano—a leader of the Northwestern Transportation Service—and his family with death. The threats were recorded on a cassette sent to a San Pedro Sula radio station.

The rebels, through Radio Eco, announced the burning of more urban buses, "given the extremely poor service that the transportation sector offers the people."

Andonie Castellano—visibly frightened because of the death threats—said he would seek protection from Colonel Julio Armando Pavon, commander of the 105th Infantry Brigade. Castellano said he would seek protection because he is a person who works for the community's well-being, and contributes to its development.

"I am extremely surprised by the threats made by this subversive group against my family and myself because I have never hurt anyone, much less the working classes. I have obligations with several banks that have placed their trust in me by granting me loans to expand the transportation sector's development, to which I have dedicated all my time and effort," Castellano said.

Castellano noted: "If the rebel group wants notoriety, they should look for it with the true exploiters of the transportation service. I am talking about the well-known spare parts and accessory agency owners whom the government should control."

* Water Being Rationed in San Pedro Sula

91CA0119D Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 11 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] The San Pedro Sula Municipal Water Division (DIMA) has begun rationing water in some neighborhoods and settlements in the city because of the substantial decline in the levels at the dams which supply the water.

Julio Gomez, the operations manager at the DIMA, explained that the water sources at the dams have been reduced—that at La Puerta by 40 percent, that at Santa Ana by 80 percent, and that at Rio de Piedras by 50 percent.

Because of this, the quotas for the neighborhoods and settlements which obtain their supply from these water sources are being reduced, and these areas will continue to be more heavily rationed, he said.

He indicated that the daily demand for water in this city comes to 42 million gallons, while current production is only 34 million, leaving a deficit of 8 million. This does not take into account the leakage, which comes to about 35 percent.

He added that heavy sanctions are being imposed on the customers who are wasting water by irrigating gardens, washing cars, and watering lawns, the roofs of houses, and streets. The penalties range from the imposition of fines of 100, 250, and 650 lempiras to the suspension of service for three months.

He said that a part of the demand is currently being met with water obtained from wells, the number of which has also been reduced. As a result, he believes that if the irrational use of water continues to the same extent, the people of San Pedro Sula may find themselves faced with the same problems the residents of the capital are experiencing.

* Drinking Water Crisis Again Hits Capital

91CA0119C Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 15 Mar 91 pp 48-49

[Article by Jenny Lavaire]

[Excerpt] "Please tell the SANAA [National Waterworks and Sewer Systems Service] people to let us have water!" This plaintive plea from the thirsty people of the capital is being repeated daily, almost filling the time on the radio broadcasting stations. Nonetheless, this demand has brought no response to provide the precious liquid to the home faucets.

After growing more acute throughout the summer season, the lack of drinking water in Tegucigalpa has for a month now been at the crisis level. But this is not a new problem. Rather it is cyclical, almost chronic in nature. For many years, the residents of this city have had to bear this cross during the months of March, April, and May.

This time, however, the situation has been rendered even more acute by other problems, such as the fact that the water supplied to the population is brackish and contains lime and mud, so that it falls far short of qualifying as drinkable. In fact, this "water" is becoming a vector of skin diseases.

But the cause of the crisis is the fact that Tegucigalpa lacks major sources of water, so that the residents could have it available all day long. In addition, the few existing sources are drying up as a result of the cutting and burning of the nearby woods, the responsibility for which must be borne by this same population.

On the other hand, the pressure put on the water service—which is not even available to extensive neglected settled areas in the city—has been increasing progressively with the expansion of Tegucigalpa. The population of the city is spiraling upward because of the phenomenon of migration from the rural sector, and with it, demand and the requirements are also experiencing dizzying growth.

During a visit paid yesterday to various slum quarters and settlements in Tegucigalpa and Comayaguela to talk with the consumers, they voiced their desperation because of the summer heat and the lack of the drinking water needed to satisfy their most pressing needs in terms of home care.

The La Torocagua, Centro America Oeste, Monsenor Fiallos, Kennedy, El Carrizal, Cerro Grande, Las Colinas, Las Lomas del Guijarro, 21 de Octubre, and some other sectors are totally without water, while the residents of the El Prado, Humuya, Las Colinas, El Hogar, and Roberto Suazo Cordova settlements and the Pueblo Nuevo neighborhood report that they are receiving brackish water.

Marcelina Ordonez, who lives in the Torocagua settlement, reports having serious problems with the water, because only a little is available once a week. "As a result, we have to buy water from the vendors at 4 lempiras per barrel. It is as if we were in the desert, but the SANAA will not listen to the customers," she said.

The employees of the SANAA do not even check the meters. They put down on the receipts whatever amount of money suits them, she said.

Like that customer, Mrs. Cristina Betancourt, who lives in the Centro America Oeste settlement, said that only a trickle of water reaches her house. "Here we are suffering for water, while the receipts always show that large sums of money are owed," she said.

Mrs. Guillermina Cruz, who lives in the Monsenor Fiallos settlement, blamed the SANAA authorities for the lack of water in her home. "I always pay the bill, but there is no water," she said, noting that none has reached her home for five days.

For her part, Mrs. Antonio Ordonez of the Kennedy settlement said that up to 15 days go by without any

supply of water to this sector. The vast majority of the residents in this zone have to buy water from the tank trucks which sell it.

A majority of the residents of El Carrizal have no water, Mrs. Gloria Urbina said. However, she had no complaint about the supply provided by the SANAA, because her home receives water every day, even if only for an hour.

But while the people are complaining about the lack of water, the SANAA authorities insist that the Los Laureles Dam provides enough water to meet the needs of the capital residents until July, provided that proper rationing is practiced.

Despite the statements made by the SANAA authorities, the citizens of the capital do not have water, and excessive rationing is being imposed, to the point that some settlements are only supplied with water for 15 minutes, and that is in the middle of the night or the early morning hours.

Water ceased to be provided to some settlements 20 days ago, while others report that it has been up to two weeks since they received any supply. As a result, the majority of the residents must buy water from private tank trucks.

For the time being, the Los Laureles Dam, which is the main source of supply for the capital, has about 7.3 million cubic meters of water stored, Julio Carcamo, the general manager of the service, said. He added that 13 million gallons are consumed in Tegucigalpa every day.

However, the water level in the dam reservoir has dropped several meters. The earth around it shows rifts, with deep cracks showing the effects of this year's harsh summer. The reservoir is drying up, a negative omen for the future, and the end of the season is still far off.

The director of the SANAA explained, furthermore, that due to the deterioration of the pipes, the residents of the capital are only receiving 7.5 million gallons of water per day, because 50 percent is lost through the leaks in the distribution system. The city's network of pipes dates back more than 80 years.

Tegucigalpa has 900,000 residents. Based on the water volume distributed by the SANAA, there are between eight and 10 gallons per day for each person, according to the technical calculations of the service.

Each cubic meter of water wasted due to the poor condition of the pipes costs the SANAA 0.55 centavos. This represents a loss of 5 million lempiras in a year, Carcamo explained.

To check the economic losses and to ensure that this 50 percent of the water reaches the consumers, the service will begin replacement of the distribution network in the second half of this year. This project will require an investment of more than 160 million lempiras.

For the time being, the residents of the capital are suffering from the lack of 50 percent of the water needed. This situation is more acute than that last year, when the figure was 43 percent. However, in Carcamo's opinion, this situation is not a result of insufficient water, but of increased demand. Service has been initiated for 230 sectors in this year alone, he said.

The Los Laureles Dam provides 55 percent of the capital supply, El Picacho provides 40 percent, and the Loarque Dam 5 percent, the director of the SANAA explained.

However, this information is at odds with the reality. The vast majority of the slums and marginal settlements in the capital have no access to drinking water, much less any distribution network installations or taps.

The head of the SANAA, who assesses this population lacking water supply at only 20 percent, tries to explain the situation by arguing that it is not possible to provide service to the higher areas, because the capacity of the distribution system only extends to a height of 1,050 meters above sea level.

As an example, he said that the Cerro Grande settlement has serious water problems, because the hill is higher than the level limit mentioned above.

Professional engineers refute that view, arguing that there are indeed alternative ways of coping with this difficulty. They say that a booster station could be built to carry the water to this and other high areas in the city.

While this problem remains unsolved, 7,000 individuals, representing 0.7 percent of the population of the capital, find themselves obliged to obtain water from wells, all of which is "hard" (with a high salt and calcareous sediment content). This is the case for the residents of the San Angel, Guaimuras, and Bella Oriente settlements, and those in a part of Kennedy, 21 de Octubre, and San Miguel, the official figures show.

But it is not only the residents of these sectors who are consuming salty water. Those in the El Prado, Humuya, Las Colinas, El Hogar, and Roberto Suazo Cordova settlements and the Pueblo Nuevo neighborhood report they are obtaining their water from wells with a high mud and salt content.

These people report that the well water has caused an epidemic of diarrhea among the children in these areas, for which reason a series of appeals has been made to the SANAA demanding the resolution of this problem, which is rendering the people desperate.

The residents of this city are eager for the commissioning of the Concepcion Dam, which is to begin operation in 1992. This dam, with a storage capacity of 38 million cubic meters, is four times the size of the Los Laureles Dam, and could provide a supply of water around the clock.

The dam will have the capacity to supply the citizens of the capital 24 hours a day until the year 2002. However,

in order to continue at a positive rate, the SANAA plans to execute the Sabanacuante and Quiebramontes projects in the year 2015.

These water projects are necessary, this official said, because the population of the capital is increasing at an annual rate of 5 percent. The Concepcion Dam will make it possible to distribute 1.5 million cubic meters per second every day.

Carcamo said that with the Concepcion Dam, all of the high areas can be supplied with water, since the distribution capacity will extend beyond the range of 1,200 meters above sea level. [passage omitted]

*** 25,000 Campesino Families Request Farms**

91CA0119B San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Apr 91 p 8

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Marcial Caballero, the secretary general of the National Union of Peasants (UNC), stated yesterday that his organization lacks the capacity to halt the seizures of land being carried out by its members in the face of the failure of the National Agrarian Institute (INA) authorities to effect the allocation of some 17,000 hectares of land.

The peasant leader said that the people in the rural sector have become desperate, because it is during this season of the year that they need plots of land to cultivate.

Currently, he said, some 90,000 manzanas are needed to meet the needs of the approximately 25,000 families who have been petitioning the INA for land for several months. To date, that body has not responded, despite the fact that the authorities promised that the distribution of some 17,000 hectares would begin in January.

Caballero demanded of President Rafael Callejas that the promise be kept, because "nothing was done" last year while the economic crisis being experienced by the peasants grew more profound, leaving them with no option but to seize land, with the risk of "ending up in jail."

*** Central Bank Releases Revised Debt Figures**

91CA0119A Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 21 Mar 91 p 8

[Text] The government of President Rafael Leonardo Callejas ended 1990 with a deficit in excess of a billion lempiras, although it was reduced to a little less than 900 million lempiras by Hondutel [Honduran Telecommunications Enterprise] and SANAA [National Waterworks and Sewer Systems Service] surpluses resulting from increased rates.

In this connection, the Central Bank of Honduras (BCH) has revealed that Hondutel ended 1990 with a surplus of 88 million lempiras, while SANAA had a surplus of 46 million.

These two surpluses represent income obtained during this period due to increases in the rates charged for their services.

Ana Mejia de Pereira, the Economic Office adviser, reported that the surpluses obtained by Hondutel and SANAA prevented a drastic upward spiral in the government deficit.

She explained that under the administration of former liberal president Jose Azcona, the government had a fiscal deficit of 1.4 billion lempiras at the end of 1989.

However, during the 1990 fiscal year, under the administration of President Callejas, this deficit was reduced to 691.9 million lempiras.

But some 319 million lempiras in BCH foreign-exchange losses were added to this deficit, resulting in a total of 1.01 billion lempiras.

Therefore, after subtracting Hondutel and SANAA gains of 122 million, the deficit comes to about 888 million lempiras, equivalent to a reduction of 6.7 percent in public expenditures in relation to the gross domestic product (GDP).

According to Ricardo Maduro, the president of the BCH, this percentage is a feature of the policy of "openness" being pursued by the current government, because "we have not tried to conceal the deficit, as has been done in other countries," he said.

However, the government has to date refrained from announcing the sizable deficit, which, as can be seen, is in fact a large one. It reveals an almost insignificant reduction in comparison to the sacrifice made by the people, as the Honduran College of Economists has pointed out.

In the address delivered by Maduro Monday evening, the economists noted that the fiscal deficit represented 8.5 percent of the GDP in 1990, barely lower than the figure reported in 1989, when the adjustment measures had not been implemented.

This 8.5 percent is well above the 6.9-percent deficit figure demanded, as a maximum, by the international bodies, the economists challenged.

Despite the fact that the BCH has verified the high income obtained for telephone services by Hondutel, that enterprise wants an allocation of an additional 270 million lempiras in the government income and expenditures budget for 1992.

The estimate included in the draft budget which is beginning to be discussed in the National Congress calls for an allocation of about 454 million lempiras for telecommunications, but Hondutel wants this sum increased even further.

Nicaragua

Students Continue To Occupy National Palace

PA2305153891 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1223 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Students are continuing their standoff at the Revolutionary Palace [National Palace]. At daybreak today, several hundred Managua high school students were still occupying the Revolutionary Palace, which they seized yesterday in support of the 45-day-old teachers' strike. The students' actions are aimed at pressuring the government into accepting the teachers' demands for increased salaries. The police are nearby, keeping a close eye on the palace area, the main doors of which have been cordoned off.

From Esteli, our correspondent Adolfo Uriba reports that hundreds of students and parents, who had seized the governor's regional office, are still at the site. At 0600 antiriot police were arriving but the students claim they will not evacuate the building.

Local Police Chief [name indistinct] gave the students until yesterday at 1800 to abandon the premises. The students, according to Uriba, said that they will continue with their demands until a solution is reached between the teachers and the Education Ministry. Some posters carried by the Esteli students state: The teachers are only demanding very meager salaries.

Reports of Vandalism

PA2305154091 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1340 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] A demonstration organized yesterday afternoon by the Front for Popular Struggle, another group from the opposition Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], ended with acts of pillaging, vandalism, and looting at offices of the Finance Ministry.

At 1200, 100 demonstrators entered the National Palace where Finance Ministry offices are located. They seized these offices in hopes of pressuring the government into answering demands from striking teachers concerning higher salaries.

In the early evening hours several hundred FSLN demonstrators, going against the constitutional order and the law, forced their way into the palace's main entrance, stole several typewriters and computers, and sacked a food warehouse.

A National Palace guard told this station that, at approximately 1830, the demonstrators forced their way into a grain storage warehouse and took bags of rice, beans, sugar, and cans of cooking oil. In addition, they took several typewriters and computers, all of which were owned by the state.

Police showed up almost 30 minutes later, did not detain any of the demonstrators, and did nothing to stop the plundering.

Former President Daniel Ortega, who headed his party's demonstration, will have to answer for the damage, the cost of which has yet to be determined.

Teachers Occupy Office

PA2305175091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1650 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Managua, 23 May (ACAN-EFE)—An undetermined number of teachers today occupied the office of Nicaraguan Education Minister Hubmerto Belli in "solidarity" with the 45-day-old strike by teachers who are demanding salary increases.

The teachers participating in the occupation of the minister's office called Managua radio stations to report the action, which occurred when Belli was not at his office.

"We will remain in the minister's office until the government resolves the teachers' bleak situation," those in control of the minister's office stated.

Meanwhile, approximately 100 students continued their occupation today of the National Palace in Managua in support of the teachers' strike for increased wages.

Police patrols are posted near the National Palace and the Education Ministry building.

The negotiations between the teachers and the government continued last night but they have yet to reach any agreement on the demands for higher salaries.

The strikers demand that the minimum salary cover at least 40 percent of the price of the basic food basket of 53 products. They are now proposing an 80 percent salary increase, rather than their initial demand for a 100 percent increase.

The government is maintaining its offer of a 20 percent increase, but would grant it in two months rather than in the four months it initially offered.

Minister Threatens 'Force'

PA2405005691 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2251 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Managua, 23 May (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan Education Minister Humberto Belli today told a group of striking teachers who are occupying his office to leave or "public force will be used."

An undetermined number of strikers have occupied the offices of Belli and Deputy Minister Hortensia Rivas to support the teachers' strike that has been going on for 45 days.

Belli told the press that the people occupying his office "are violating the laws of the country," and this "makes

it more difficult to solve the conflict" because "one cannot negotiate through intimidation."

The minister added that "the occupation of my office shows the weakness of the strikers and forces the government to be firm, because if the responsible parties are not punished, a terrible precedent will be set."

Belli admitted that the salaries of the teachers are low, but he emphasized that the salary increases that have been proposed "are at the limit of the government's financial capability."

The strikers are demanding that the minimum wage cover at least 40 percent of the basic basket of 53 products, valued at 700 cordobas, and they are now proposing a salary adjustment of 80 percent instead of 100 percent.

Meanwhile, for the second day, about 100 students continued to occupy the National Palace in Managua to show their support for the strike by the National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers, which is a pro-Sandinist opposition.

Teachers 'Dislodged'

PA2405135891 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] In several regions, students are still occupying some government agencies and buildings to press for a solution to the teachers' problem so classes can be resumed. It has been reported that several offices, including that of the International Verification Commission in Esteli, were taken over. In Carazo, the students took over the Education Ministry offices. In Managua, hundreds of young people have the National Palace under their control.

Also in Managua, the teachers took over the office of Education Minister Humberto Belli but were dislodged by the police, leaving one teacher and two policemen injured. Minister Belli warned in a press conference yesterday that force will be used to clear any unlawfully closed offices.

D. Ortega Speaks on Strikes, Property Rulings

PA2405044391 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 May 91

[Speech by Daniel Ortega, former president, at a rally at the Plaza of Revolucion in Managua on 22 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] We have gathered at this historic plaza this afternoon to reaffirm our commitment to democracy, peace, and the people. We started building democracy in Nicaragua, for the very first time in history, as of 1979. Democracy is being threatened at this time by those who want to disavow the people's achievements, by those who want to disavow the revolutionary achievements, and by those who want to impose a return to Somozism in our fatherland.

How is this being expressed? How are these attempts to return to Somozism in Nicaragua becoming evident? They are becoming evident with very specific actions. When the Somozist landholders try to take land away from the peasants, they are trying to impose the Somozist regime once again. When the landlords try to take away the homes and lots of land from the people, they are trying to impose Somozism in our fatherland once again. When the Somozist capitalists try to take the factories away from the workers, they are trying to return to Somozism. When the Constitution of the Republic is ignored, when the laws of the country are violated, it is evident that there is an attempt to return to Somozism.

We have an obligation to defend the Constitution. We have an obligation to call the government's attention to the respect it owes to the Constitution. We have been waging this battle in many meetings with the government so that it will comply with the agreements it signed. We have also been waging this battle in the fields and the cities.

We are not the ones who are provoking strikes in Nicaragua. Strikes are the result of measures that trample on the Constitution of the Republic and the interests of the workers. [passage omitted]

I ask those who are engaged in this campaign of trying to weaken the will of the Nicaraguan people, did the Sandinist take the land from the poor and give it to the rich? It was very simple, the poor did not have any land, the land was in the hands of the rich so we took the land from the rich and gave it to the poor. [shouting and applause] We do not regret taking it away from the rich, it was a matter of justice, [words indistinct] that we have defended and we will continue defending this action in any arena because it was a just cause. The land belongs to the those who work the land.

I ask these agents of the imperialism, did we take lands and homes from the poor to give to the rich? The lands and houses belonged to the rich, and they were given to those who did not have land or houses, and we do not regret this measure. [shouts and applause]

Did we take the factories and businesses away from the workers to give them to the Somozists, the rich, and the capitalists? The [word indistinct] companies belonged to the Somozists, the capitalists, so much land, so many farms, so many [words indistinct]. The people were only recovering what the rich had taken from them so long ago. [words indistinct]

By historical and just rights, these assets were given back to the hands of the poor. But the Somozists have come back to our nation with property rulings allowing them to take the land from the peasants [words indistinct] the homes from the townspeople; they have tried to take the lots away from the poor people; they have tried to get the

workers out of the factories and businesses. Nevertheless, the people have not allowed those rulings to become a reality. [passage omitted]

We could talk at length here about the problem of instability in rural areas, and how it is affecting production, but, in view of the ruling handed down by the Supreme Court of Justice, which was very good.... [changes thought] A bill that tries to repeal Laws 85 and 86 is still in the National Assembly. What is the purpose of it? To undo, to undo [repeats himself] all the gains made by the revolution. This means instability. The government has said it respects the revolutionary gains. It has often said it and signed many agreements to that effect.

The problem is that the government has a hard time keeping its word. That is why we are obligated to contribute and to help make the government keep its word. We will only achieve that by getting organized and struggling, and acting with steadfastness whenever there is an attempt to evict people from their lands, houses, or factories. In the face of this threat posed by extremist deputies of the National Assembly, we want to send a very clear message today. The people gathered here want peace and stability, and will not let a minority sow chaos and instability in our country.

If the National Assembly meets in early June to debate the approval of the aforemetioned bill, they will have us in the streets again in a nationwide mobilization to defend our rights, the accomplishments of the revolution, and the government's commitments to the people. We are going to rise up, not to oust the government, but to undo the laws that are trying to kill the hopes and rights of the people.

We are warning right-wing groups: We demand that they act in a constructive spirit, assuming that they can. Now it turns out that the people who killed others all these years, who headed the counterrevolutionary plan, the counterrevolutionary leadership in Miami and other countries, are in fact democratic, honest, and respectful of human rights. Hiding under that cloak, they have introduced a bill to return to all the owners the things we Sandinists stole from them. They fail to realize that they are sowing instability in our country. If Nicaragua had thieves, they would be the capitalists, Somozists, and large landowners, but never the poor or hardworking people. If we, the working people, peasants and workers, were to add up what the rich, capitalists, large landowners, and Somozists owe us for so many years of exploitation, they would be left without anything and they would still owe us because they would have no way of paying us back. Our struggle is to find stability in the country. Our struggle is to make peace a reality in Nicaragua. Our struggle is to make democracy grow in our fatherland. The defense of this just cause requires that we reinforce the unity of the people and the workers without sectarianism. We must bring all Nicaraguans into this struggle for justice, and respect for the basic gains of the revolution.

What we need to wage this battle is courage, awareness, patriotism, enthusiasm, and combat readiness to achieve new victories. [applause] We do not have to arm ourselves, under any circumstances, with rifles or machine guns because rifles and machine guns are in the hands of the Sandinist People's Army and police, which are forces rooted in the people. These forces are there to respect and defend the country's Constitution and this means respecting the Nicaraguan people, workers, and peasants.

Supporters Demand Social Rights

PA2305152091 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1225 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Thousands of Sandinists took to Managua's streets yesterday to oppose the elimination of Laws 85 and 86, which guarantee land and housing for those who received property during the government of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

There are different versions regarding the number of people who showed up at the Plaza of the Revolution to demand social rights for the workers. Some say there were 12,000 persons; others who were more enthusiastic said there were more than that. No matter what the number, the truth is that there were more than many expected. It was a resurrection of the strength of FSLN supporters.

Father Miguel d'Escoto, president of the People's Struggle Front (Frente de Lucha Popular), said during the demonstration that the Chamorro government intends to return Nicaragua to that forgotten past, which caused so much confrontation and crisis in the country.

Edgardo Garcia, leader of the ATC [Farm Workers Association], claimed that the peasants have the right to get credit for their harvests and that the large producers are not the only ones who should get credit.

Lucio Jimenez, of the FNT [National Workers Front], demanded that the state-owned enterprises be privatized so as to respond to the sacrifice of the workers and not to the Somozist businessmen who are returning to the country.

Daniel Ortega said that the Somozists want to take advantage of new laws to take back goods that were confiscated by the revolution and given to the people.

This was the largest concentration of people to have been led by a political party since the electoral campaign took place, and it proves that Sandinism is alive and well.

FSLN's Carrion on Ownership Bill

PA2305202691 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 May 91 pp 1,8

[Summary] In exclusive statements to BARRICADA, Sandinist Commander Luis Carrion Cruz said on 16 May that the bill presented by conservative deputies for the judicial processing of the resolutions in favor of returning certain transferred property, issued by the

National Ownership Revision Commission, "represents a general attack against the changes on property ownership implemented during the revolution."

Carrion, member of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] Directorate, cautioned that the "FSLN would withdraw indefinitely from the National Assembly if the bill presented by the conservatives to destroy the ownership system prepared by the revolution is submitted for discussion."

Carrion explained that "this bill does not only refer to the lots of land and housing units delivered by virtue of Laws 85 and 86, but also to the land assigned by the agrarian reform and all the transfers of property effected by the state during the 10 years of revolution."

Carrion warned: "If this bill were approved, it would result in a serious violation of the Transition Protocol and in a social and political crisis throughout the country, which would prevent all institutions from operating normally." Carrion also said that "it would be like the law of the jungle."

Carrion denounced the fact that 39 National Opposition Union, UNO, deputies signed a document demanding that the Board of Directors of the National Assembly immediately introduce the bill in the Assembly's agenda.

Second Phase of National Dialogue Initiated

PA2405024791 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 May 91

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Reliable ownership, jobs, and salaries are some of the most important issues that the various sectors will introduce at the second phase of the national dialogue.

The board of directors of the national dialogue has met to discuss the methodology that will be used in this second phase. All the sectors have proposals on the various issues.

The Workers Permanent Congress [CPT] and the National Workers Front [FNT] have common problems they will present to the government. They are calling for privatization in favor of the workers, a basic salary, labor stability, and financial support for production.

[CPT leader Jose Espinoza]"We are going to ask the government to stop removing people from the land, such as the peasants who may be working the land or others who may have just taken possession of it. We are also going to ask the government to comply with the government program."

[FNT leader Lucio Jimenez] "One of the most important points we are going to defend is reliable ownership. How is it possible that hundreds of thousands of families could lose their houses and their land? There are sectors in and out of the government that want to derogate Laws 85 and 86."

The Higher Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP] will call for proposals on the policies for the development of the agricultural sector, compensation for people who have had their property confiscated, and an end to the seizing of property.

[COSEP leader Ramiro Gurdian] "The right to property is a key to production. If this does not exist, there will not be economic progress."

The president of the national dialogue has said that the cancellation of payments to international banks will produce an influx of financial resources in the country. This is in line with the national dialogue.

[Finance Minister Dr. Emilio Pereira, president of the National Dialogue] "Inflationary taxes have disappeared. Conservative estimates indicate that employees used between 20 and 30 percent of their salaries to pay an inflationary tax. What does this mean? It means that during the period between the moment an employee receives his salary and the moment he spent it on purchases, that employee had lost between 20 and 30 percent of his salary because of inflation.

Since inflation has been noticeably controlled, employees will no longer suffer this loss, therefore, this is a situation that benefits the workers and represents a recovery of one's salary."

LA PRENSA Splits Over Editorial Policy

PA2305192391 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 22 May 91 pp 1, 8

[Text] A serious schism has emerged in LA PRENSA newspaper between the chairwoman of the board of directors and other board members. The schism is political in nature because it is carried in the editorial section of the ruling family's newspaper.

The latest round involves an article published Monday under orders by Cristiana Chamorro, which rebukes the newspaper's editorial staff, and an editorial in yesterday's paper that was written by the publishers and other board members, which disavows Cristiana. The squabble, however, actually started some time back, during the latest restructuring of LA PRENSA's management.

First Round

A few months ago, two of the three branches of the newspaper's family of shareholders succeeded in removing Cristiana Chamorro from the editorial staff because she is married to Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and because they felt the newspaper should adopt a more radical anti-Sandinist line.

Mrs. Violeta Chamorro disappeared from the ranks of the board of directors and Cristiana was sent to preside over the board, an action which usually means noninvolvement with the publishing of the newspaper. Pablo Antonio Cuadra and reporter Horacio Ruiz, who is well known for his hatred of the Sandinists and anything

progressive, as well as for his unconditional services to the U.S. Embassy, were put in charge of editing the newspaper.

Second Round

Horacio Ruiz' management became the target of the board chairwoman's most serious rebuke, as he was found to have incurred severe mistakes that harmed the newspaper.

First, he purposely published—on the front page—a letter to President Chamorro from the daughter of the founder of the Somoza dynasty, which the president had not yet received.

Then, remarks by Cardinal Obando were misrepresented in an alarmist headline, based on comments he made to a foreign news source that were taken out of context.

Third Round

To conclude, Ruiz omitted the participation of and work by former Vice President Sergio Ramirez at the meeting of the Paris Club, although the dispatch that arrived at LA PRENSA devoted several paragraphs to him.

The worst, however, was that he reprinted a slander-filled article published by Mexico's newspaper LA JORNADA that attacked Rosa Maria Zelaya of the CSE [Supreme Electoral Council]. She had no trouble disproving the charges that she appropriated some computers donated to the CSE.

Cristiana Chamorro bitterly censured these actions, but yesterday, in the fourth round; Ruiz, Cuadra, and two board members defended the editorial policy, saying it was valid to run any dispatch that came from abroad and they can avoid any charges of slander by saying they are reprinting something from another source.

There is no telling if the fight will continue, or if there will be a knockout.

* Divisions, Factions in FSLN Described

91CA0121A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Apr 91 p 5

[Commentary by Wilfredo Navarro M.]

[Text] The UNO [National Opposition Union] election victory, which apparently signified the loss of political power for the Front movement, has generated serious contradictions in economic and political interests for the Front that have seriously split its supposed monolithic unity. The 11-year-long unity is fading away and dissolving like foam, inasmuch as its greatest raison d'etre was the very need for it. The Front needed unity in order to maintain power and defend its privileges and sinecures. The fear of losing them bound Front members together cohesively and today, without that power, splits and internal struggles flourish.

Another factor that should be pointed out, because it sharpened contradictions and divergencies, was the Front's control of national assets. The leadership and its clique joyously divided up over $700 million, becoming millionaires overnight, but leaving a sector of the Front abandoned to its fate after the election defeat. The FSLN rank and file looked with distrust upon their leaders who spoke of sacrifices and honesty but who, in the hour of truth, demonstrated unbounded ambition.

Viewing the current political picture as we approach the FSLN Congress (postponed three times without the reasons ever being clearly known), we find five clear and representative factions or divisions within the FSLN movement.

First of all, we have the Evangelist-Frontists. Former Deputy Sixto Ulloa's CEPAD [Evangelical Committee for Development Aid] and a whole group of opportunistic individuals who manipulate the religious sentiments of the people, who defended the Front movement to the detriment of the people of Nicaragua, have split off and are forming a so-called Evangelical party. This new party will have fundamentalist characteristics that will have difficulty gaining support from the people, who have witnessed its attitude in the past.

Second, the Frontist producers grouped together in UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen], who took great advantage before and after the "handout," are now establishing their own bank and will found a new political party, the Agrarian Party. Nor would it appear to have much of a future, for it contains major contradictions due to the economic ambitions of those who comprise it.

Third, we have a group of "obscure" Frontists who preach what they call the "third path," whose main objective is to provide a response to the election debacle and, in a way, wash the FSLN's face after 10 years of squandering the national assets. This group is led by Tunnerman Bernheim, Serrano Caldera, Reynaldo Tefel, and Tuti Cuanti. Nor does this faction appear headed for success, for its main members enjoy scant esteem, being considered ideologically inconsistent and in no way trustworthy, politically speaking.

In fourth place are those called "Principists" or orthodox, but whom the people know as extremists and radicals. This group is allegedly led by Tomas Borge and contains extremists who continue to believe that the solution for Nicaragua lies in the now-obsolete Marxism and Leninist violence in order to find a response for political and social problems. This Frontist sector assumes an intransigent antigovernment, antipeople, and anti-everything posture with "Ayatollahistic" manifestations. The group is extremely dangerous due to the violence it generates. Furthermore, because of this extremist and violent behavior, it has no viable political future.

In fifth place are those who like to be called "pragmatists" (those whom the people call opportunists and

operators). They are the ones who took maximum advantage of the Frontist "disgovernment" and were the main cause of the country's economic debacle. This group is the one which, after the UNO victory, thinks one should make accommodations and not swim against the current, as a result of which they are bent on "getting along" with the government. It is headed by Payo Solis, Herty Lewites, Sergio Ramirez, Humberto Ortega, and others who do not want to lose their privileges by trying to cogovern in the shadows. In practice, they became partners with the government in exchange for maintaining their privileges and guarantees in terms of assets obtained through the "handout." They are apparently in the majority and have crushed the other factions.

In addition to these clearly delineated factions, one glimpses other divisions. Workers in the FNT [National Workers Front], ATC [Association of Agricultural Workers], UNE [National Union of Employees], CST [Sandinist Workers Federation], and so on, even despite the subservience to the Ortega brothers of Lucio Jimenez, Edgardo Garcia, and other pseudo labor leaders, the so-called rank and file are thinking more about their "class identity" than about the political and economic interests of the party leadership and have indicated that they can continue on alone because the FSLN does not meet the main objectives of the workers, which are their social demands.

Within the women's and youth groups of the FSLN, problems are similar. Struggles rage unabated over leadership. The election defeat, the "handout," and so on, have resulted in a loss of credibility in "The National Leadership hereby orders," for no longer does it have any moral or party authority to impose its criteria and check divisions.

The rank and file are demanding radical changes in leadership of the party: in its structure, conduct of its leaders, and the program, as a result of which we have great difficulty seeing how the leadership can maintain unity, for the splits are profound and personal. The moral defeat, crisis in values, envy, opportunism, and personal prostration will prevent them from getting back up again, and sooner rather than later they will become part of history as a failed plan that has left the nation of Dario Sandino and Zeledon nothing but black, painful memories.

* Changes in FSLN Draft Statutes Proposed

91CA0121B Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 16 Apr 91 p 4

[Commentary by Danilo Aguirre S.]

[Text] Even if the Sandinist rank and file can reform or totally change the statutes presented by the drafting committee, we believe it is fitting to emphasize this power—because of the aspect of induction—in a party in which verticalism has predominated.

Based on this given, we would specifically state that the statutes drafted by the committee in question have given no more than a surface coating to the necessary democratic horizontality of the party while basically maintaining vertical institutionality, decisive overestimation of certain organizations, the lack of legitimacy of others, and, what is worse, a negative insertion of the National Directorate throughout the organization.

We shall not refer in this article to the statute on youth that goes back to before 1983, or to other definitions we deem to be important and which we shall leave until later.

Today we shall get down to basics: the Secretariat and the National Directorate.

In addition to having no defined objective and taking on this historical ballast, the Secretariat is born of its appointment by the National Directorate, while at the same time being equated with other elective decision-making organs of the party. An appointed secretariat will have no authority or legitimacy and its decisions will never have the force of those made by the congress or the Sandinist Assembly.

It would therefore be most advisable to get rid of this institution and if working committees are to be formed, they should be subordinate to elective organs.

The matter of the National Directorate is even more serious. All the factions that have spoken out to date on the program, principles, and relations with the government have been unanimous on organic matters: new cadres in the party's decision-making organs, egalitarian collegiality in those organs, and dependency on policies outlined by higher organizations.

To propose a National Directorate of "up to 11 members" for the party's executive committee leads us into grave difficulties.

1—The "up to 11" can be reduced to eight, which would be the same as the current National Directorate.

2—If this were so, there would be nothing to elect and it is a well-known fact to anyone who knows how to interpret the signs of the times that the rank and file are fighting for an executive separate from the National Directorate and, what is more—why not come right out and say it?—without certain members of that same leadership.

3—If it is a matter of electing members of the leadership one by one, it would, on the one hand, be a distortion of the historic representation of the current members of that leadership and, on the other, expose them to an annoying rejection of some of them at election time.

We shall propose that the current National Directorate be left as it is, without organic insertion in the party, with posts such as the "revolutionary commanders" reaffirmed in the statutes as the highest historic symbol of the leadership of the FSLN and with the possibility, like

any other member, of opting to be elected to any one of the party's leadership organs.

At the same time, a leadership should be created with geographic representation, be elected by the congress for assembly recesses, and have about 30 members. Finally, there would be an executive committee with a minimum of 15 for permanent activities.

To propose members of the current National Directorate for this executive committee is not the same as replacing the committee with the National Directorate or electing a new National Directorate.

There should also be a coordinating or presiding committee for each organ of the party: the congress, assembly, national board, and executive committee. For the latter two, it would be recommended that there be a system of rotation preventing, due to custom, certain figures from imposing the weight of their previous authority on decisions.

* Draft Statutes, National Directorate Discussed

91CA0122A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16, 17 Apr 91 p 3

[Editorial by Carlos Tunnermann B.]

[16 Apr p 3]

[Text] Already circulating among members and sympathizers of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] are two documents that will be debated and approved at the Front's First Congress: the Proposed Statutes of the FSLN and the Draft Principles and Program of the FSLN. The two documents, along with the Political Report of the National Directorate, not yet distributed, will be the subject of a wide-ranging debate process intended to improve them at the level of assemblies of rank-and-file organizations and departmental congresses.

Because of previous commitments to UNESCO, I will unfortunately be out of the country during a large part of this singular party exercise. Therefore, hoping to make a few modest contributions to the discussion of such important documents, I write these comments, moved by the single purpose of contributing to the process of democratization of the FSLN, which I deem to be of far-reaching importance for the future of democracy in Nicaragua.

The Proposed Statutes unquestionably represent good progress on the path toward making the FSLN a modern, dynamic, democratic party, but I think they go only halfway.

Definition of the FSLN

I believe that the FSLN has been quite accurately defined as "a revolutionary, anti-imperialist party that defends the peoples' interests and takes up the tradition of struggle of the Nicaraguan people for the nation's sovereignty and independence, as contained in the thoughts of Sandino and Carlos Fonseca." This article adequately expresses the basic characteristics of Sandinism as it has been historically defined.

The fact that the FSLN is "anti-imperialist," meaning "nationalist," does not necessarily mean that it must be in constant confrontation with the United States. Nor does it exclude the possibility of a mature relationship with that country on the basis of respect for sovereignty and self-determination.

Article 2 completes the description of the FSLN as a party, affirming that "it unites all Nicaraguans committed to a revolutionary program." I interpret this to mean that it fortunately retains its nature as a "front" and a "pluriclassist" party. It would have been a serious mistake to define it as a party exclusively of the workers and peasants because, in addition to the fact that it does not reflect the real situation, this would constitute a failure to recognize that the strength of the FSLN has resided precisely in its "pluriclassist" nature, which does not preclude the interests of the great majorities and their social progress from having priority in its programs of struggle.

Neither today nor even in the old socialist world, perhaps, would an attempt to organize a party exclusively of the workers and peasants be successful. The pluriclassist nature of the FSLN is reiterated by Article 4 when it says: "All Nicaraguans, without distinction as to religious creed or economic condition, are members of the FSLN, provided they accept its programmatic platform," and so on.

Article 2 contains a concept that is perhaps deserving of a better explanation for the rank-and-file, specifically, the reference to "socialist humanism," which is definitely a valuable current of thought, one of enormous historic importance to which contributions have been made by a whole range of outstanding thinkers from Marx himself to Gandhi and including "utopian socialists" and authors such as Leon Blum, Erich Fromm, Henri Lefebvre, Leopold Senghor, and so on. Is this a socialism "on a human scale" and "with a human face," one closer to democratic than to authoritarian socialism? Many questions might be asked concerning this point.

In the final analysis, this expression cannot simply appear out of the blue in an article of the Statutes, particularly when it appears nowhere in the Draft Principles and Program of the FSLN. However, I would not make any motion to eliminate from the text any reference to "the more noble ideals of socialist humanism," but I think the meaning of the phrase should be explained to the rank and file.

However, I would move to eliminate from the following Article 3 the concept of "democratic centralism," both because I deem it to be outdated in the present circumstances and because it might serve as a basis for a return to verticalism, which the new Statutes would presumably eradicate once and for all.

So difficult is it to assimilate "democratic centralism" at the present time that the authors of the Draft Statutes felt obliged to explain it as follows: "Viewed as adherence to compliance with decisions made by the majority of its members and/or leadership organs," an explanation that only confuses it with "party discipline," which obviously must exist in any party, albeit with certain limitations.

Members and Affiliates

For a party of the masses rather than of cadres, which I think the FSLN should be, the requirements and procedures for admission should be more flexible. Such is the case today in the major modern parties, which bear no resemblance to secret or exclusive sects or lodges.

In the chapter on "Rights and Duties of FSLN Members," one finds traces of the serious limitations of the past that finally weakened or eliminated criticisms or self-criticisms, with great harm to the party. Furthermore, in my opinion, they created the internal climate that partly explained the election defeat when leaders failed to heed the feelings and criticisms of the rank and file.

The worst thing that can happen to a party is that the desire to avoid public criticism leads it into political blindness or deafness. I believe that damage is done to healthy criticism, which, on the contrary, should be stimulated to the maximum extent, by provisions establishing that a member of the FSLN cannot express his opinions outside of the organization if they contradict the resolutions of the congress or leadership organs, as well as a provision stipulating that one may criticize a party member, no matter what post he occupies, privately or at party meetings only.

[17 Apr p 3]

Why should a member of the FSLN be prohibited—if he deems it necessary—from publicly expressing his disagreement with any decision he believes is erroneous, whether it come from the congress, assembly, or National Directorate? Why should he not be allowed to criticize publicly, assuming responsibility for what he honestly sees as worthy of criticism from another member?

Very few truly democratiic parties would be willing to set forth the bans contained in the Draft Statutes, which are also in contradiction with Article 13, which imposes on members the duty of fighting "any attempt to muzzle or distort revolutionary criticism." In the past year, we have made great progress with respect to public criticism in the FSLN. I do not see why we should take a step backward on this point.

It is a positive step for the draft to incorporate the elective nature of the congress, Sandinist Assembly, National Directorate, and Ethics and Honor Committee, but it is not proper for the National Directorate to preside over the Sandinist Assembly. According to the Draft Statutes, the Sandinist Assembly "is a deliberating body and the ranking decision-making organ between congresses on matters affecting important aspects of the party and national life."

Sandinist Assembly

The National Directorate is in turn defined as "the organ which represents and leads the party on a daily basis," and so on.

In other words, everything seems to indicate that the nature of the National Directorate is that of an executive body. This is also the result of its powers, set forth in Article 27 of the Draft Statutes. Nor is it logical that, being of such a nature, it would preside over the Sandinist Assembly which, in addition to being a deliberative body, is above the national leadership, for it is the "ranking decision-making" organ between congresses.

The contradiction is more flagrant when one considers that, according to Article 28 of the Draft Statutes, the National Directorate "responds to the congress of the party and, between congresses, to the Sandinist Assembly, to which it will account for its administration and the administration of those appointed to party posts by it." Moreover, how can the National Directorate preside over the Sandinist Assembly to which it is responsible? If this is so, it would be both judge and jury, unless the intention is that the Sandinist Assembly should continue to be, as it has been so far, an organization subordinate to the National Directorate and unless that verticalism, which no one even accepts any longer, is maintained.

True democratization of the FSLN requires that both the Congress, which will be "the supreme and sovereign party organ," and the new Sandinist Assembly will elect their own officers from among their members, with sufficient capacity, insofar as the Assembly is concerned, to summon it when it deems necessary or when requested to do so by a third of its members. Neither one should be presided over by the National Directorate. This would be logical and healthy in order to ensure the independence of the Assembly and, with all the more reason, the congress itself.

Sandinist Youth

Article 44 in effect places the Sandinist Youth under the control of the National Directorate. It is fine for the JS 19 J [19 July Sandinist Youth] to be "guided" by the resolutions of the FSLN congress, but it is not appropriate to subordinate it to the dictates of the National Directorate. In the past, such subordination proved to be counterproductive. Young people must be allowed a wide margin of action and initiative. It is from among them that the leaders who will replace the current leadership will come. Let us give them an opportunity to form their own judgment. Experience will be their best teacher.

* Poll Assesses Chamorro's First Year in Office

91CA0120A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish (PERFIL DE LA JORNADA' SUPPLEMENT) 26 Apr 91 pp II-VI

[Text]

I. Methodology of Public Opinion Survey

The sample. The survey was conducted in the city of Managua on 19 and 20 April 1991, with a sample of 250. The households selected for the survey sample were distributed among the six districts as follows: D-I: 50 (20.0 percent); D-II: 89 (35.0 percent); D-III: 63 (25.0 percent); D-IV: 12 (5.0 percent); D-V: 24 (10.0 percent); and D-VI: 12 (5.0 percent). The sampling was also based on the standard classification of sex and age. For sex: 44.4 percent (111) men and 55.6 percent (139) women. For age: 29.6 percent (74) between 16 and 22 years old; 22.8 percent (57) between 23 and 29 years old; and 47.6 percent (119) over 30 years old.

Level of education. 36.8 percent (92) of those surveyed had a grade school education; 43.6 percent (109) had attended secondary school; 12.8 percent (32) had taken university courses; and just 6 percent (15) had received no formal schooling, while 0.8 percent (2) had received another form of education.

Employment. Employed: 24.0 percent (60); housewives: 27.6 percent (69); self-employed: 21.2 percent (53); students: 15.2 percent (38); unemployed: 8.0 percent (20); other: 1.6 percent 94); and military service: 1.6 percent (4).

Place of employment. Of those employed (24.0 percent), the breakdown is as follows: 38.3 percent (23) are government employees, 51.7 percent (31) work in the private sector, 6.7 percent (4) work in the mixed sector, 1.7 percent work in cooperatives, and 1.7 percent are classified as "other."

Sponsorship. The public opinion survey was conducted by the Nicaraguan Studies Institute (IEN), with financing from the daily BARRICADA.

II. Results of Public Opinion Survey

1. Expectations for Immediate Change

When the National Union of Opposition (UNO) took office on 25 April 1990, the principal expectations indicated in the survey were the following: improved economic conditions, 30.4 percent (76); an end to the war, 21.2 percent (53); and the abolition of Patriotic Military Service (SMP), 16.0 percent (40).

The other expectations were: "other," 12.4 percent (31); "the circulation of the gold cordoba," 11.2 percent (28); the disarmament of the Resistance, 3.6 percent (9); no response, 2 percent (5); better education and health, 1.6 percent (4); and sufficient financing from the United States, 1.6 percent (4).

All of the expectations having to do with economic improvement (better economic conditions and circulation of the gold cordoba) totaled 41.6 percent (114); those related to peace (end of the war, disarmament of the Resistance, and abolition of the SMP) amounted to 40.8 percent (102).

Of the housewives who were interviewed, 31.9 percent (22) expected economic improvement; 23.2 percent (16) wanted the abolition of the SMP; 17.4 percent (12) hoped for the circulation of the gold cordoba; 15.9 percent (11) wanted the end of the war. Of the employed respondents, the largest percentages were: 26.7 percent (16) hoping for economic improvement, 25.0 percent (15) looking for the end of the war, and 15.0 percent (9) anticipating the circulation of the gold cordoba. Of the self-employed respondents, on the other hand, 28.6 percent (14) said they had expected economic improvement, 24.5 percent (12) expected the end of the war, and 16.3 percent the abolition of the SMP. The corresponding figures for the students were 34.2 percent (13) expecting better economic conditions, 21.1 percent (8) hoping for the end of the war, and 13.2 percent wanting the abolition of the SMP.

2. Evaluation of One Year of UNO Government

A number of questions were asked about the respondents' current situation, whether it is better, the same, or worse than before now that the UNO government has been in office for a year. The results were as follows:

a) Economic Condition: A significant majority (40.4 percent, 101 respondents) feel that the economic conditions today, 1 year into the UNO administration, are worse than before; while 22.8 percent (57) say they are better off, 36.4 percent (91) say they are the same, and the remaining 0.4 percent (1) had no response or did not know.

Among the housewives, 44.9 percent (31) believe the economic situation is worse, 30.4 percent (21) believe it is the same, and 24.6 percent (17) say it is better. Of the employees, 45.0 percent (27) say the economic situation is the same, 33.3 percent (20) say it is worse, and 21.7 percent (13) say it is better. The economic situation a year after the inauguration of the UNO government is the same, in the view of 40.8 percent (20) of the self-employed/entrepreneur respondents; 38.8 percent (19) of them say it is worse, and 20.4 percent (10) of them say it is better. Among students, 36.8 percent (14) believe it is the same, 34.2 percent (13) believe it is worse, and 26.3 percent (10) believe it is better. Of the unemployed participants in the survey, 55.0 percent (11) feel the situation is worse, 30.0 percent (6) feel it is the same, and 15.0 percent (3) feel it is better. In no case is it mentioned that the economic situation is better after one year of UNO government; nevertheless, those who feel worst off are housewives and the unemployed, followed by the self-employed/entrepreneurs.

b) Unemployment: The vast majority (68 percent, 172 respondents) believe that one year into the UNO administration, unemployment is greater; only 9.6 percent (24) say it is lower, and 18.8 percent (47) say it is the same; 2.8 percent (7) had no response.

c) Health and Education Services: There is a consensus that the services provided to the population are worse than before: 50.0 percent (125) of those interviewed stated that they are worse, while 27.2 percent (68) said that services are improving. On the other hand, 22.2 percent (55) indicated that services are the same, while 8.0 percent (2) did not know or did not respond.

d) Promised Change: When asked whether the government has met the population's expectations for change in six months in office, the participants in the survey gave the administration a resounding condemnation: 51.6 percent (129) stated that the government has not fulfilled its campaign promises, while just 15.6 percent (39) contended that it has; 30.4 percent (28) stated that it has sort of fulfilled them, 1.2 percent (3) gave other responses, and 1.2 percent (3) said they did not know or had no response.

e) Acts like a democratic government: When asked whether the government acts in a democratic manner, 53.6 percent (134) of the respondents agreed that it does, 38.0 percent (95) said that it does not, and 8.4 percent responded that they did not know or had no response.

f) Promotes citizen participation in deciding the country's future: The respondents were divided on this issue, with 42.4 percent (106) agreeing and 47.2 percent (118) disagreeing that the government promotes citizen participation, while 10.4 percent did not know or gave no response.

g) Promotes national reconciliation: A significant majority, 59.6 percent (149) agreed that the government promotes national reconciliation; 34.0 percent (85) disagreed and 6.4 percent did not know or had no response.

h) Maintains sovereignty in international relations, remains independent from the United States: Half of those surveyed, 50.0 percent (125), agreed that the government maintains its sovereignty in international relations; 89.6 percent [as published] (99) disagreed with the statement, and 10.4 percent did not know or had no response. Nevertheless, when asked whether the government is independent of the United States, 50.4 percent (126) said the statement is false, 37.6 percent said it is true, and 12.0 percent did not know or had no response.

Thus, whereas part of the population believes that the government shows a lack of independence from the United States, it does not regard this as a loss of sovereignty.

i) Government's behavior toward workers: The statement that the government represses workers met with agreement by 47.6 percent (119) of those surveyed, while 43.2 percent (108) disagreed with it and 9.2 percent (23) did not know or had no response.

j) Government respects the Constitution and laws: Of those interviewed, 50.8 percent (127) agreed that the government respects the Constitution of the Republic and the laws; 38.4 percent (96) disagreed, and 10.8 percent (27) did not know or gave no response.

k) Government is sensitive to the problems of the poor: This phrase is considered true by 34.8 percent (87) of the respondents; 57.2 percent (143) said the statement is false, and 8.0 percent (20) did not know or did not respond.

l) Government favors business more: Of those surveyed, 74.8 percent (187) agreed that the government favors business more; 12.0 percent (30) said this statement is false, and 13.2 percent (33) said they did not know or had no response.

m) Nicaragua's main problem one year into the UNO administration: The overwhelming majority of those who participated in the survey stated that Nicaragua's main problem is the economic crisis.

The weighting of the respondents is as follows:

Item	Frequency	Percentage
Economic crisis	185	74.0
Other problems	27	10.8
Lack of external aid	17	8.6
Political tensions	10	4.0
Danger of another war	6	2.4
Does not know/no response	5	2.0

The respondents believe that the principal problem is the economic crisis by a large margin (74.0 percent), while political problems are considered insignificant (4.0 percent), and only 2.4 percent fear that another war will break out.

n) Most positive aspects of the government after one year in office: The respondents expressed the following opinions:

Item	Frequency	Percentage
End of the war	89	35.6
Suspension of the SMP	66	26.4
Other aspects	32	12.8
Economic change	29	11.6
National reconciliation	17	6.8
Does not know/no response	11	4.4
Democracy	6	2.4

o) Most negative aspect of the government after one year in office: The opinions expressed were as follows:

Item	Frequency	Percentage
Unemployment	66	26.4
Persistence of economic crisis	45	18.0
Lower real wages	45	18.0
Other aspects	43	17.2
Too weak to govern	31	12.4
Does not know/no response	14	5.6
Differences within UNO	6	2.4

p) Degree of freedom one year into the UNO administration: Freedom is considered to be broader by 53.6 percent (134) of those interviewed; 30.0 percent (75) think there is the same degree of freedom; 14.0 percent feel there is less freedom; and 2.4 percent (6) did not know or had no response.

q) Government's economic adjustment plan: A number of questions were asked about the economic adjustment plan promoted by the government. The incidences of response are as follows:

Item	Yes	No	Does not know/no response
Reduce inflation	54.4	39.2	6.4
Generate more employment	43.6	52.0	4.4
Improve real wages	45.2	50.0	4.8
Favor producers, agroexports	59.2	26.8	14.0
Affect small industry	57.6	36.4	6.0
Improve health and education	49.2	44.4	6.4
IMF-type adjustment	61.2	13.6	25.2

r) Who benefits most from the economic adjustment plan? There is a strong consensus (52.4 percent, 131 respondents) that the measures benefit big business most; 19.6 percent (49) feel that they are benefiting the country as a whole; 16.8 percent (42) believe the government is benefiting most; 9.6 percent (24) think the workers are the largest beneficiaries; and 1.6 percent (4) think small producers benefit the most.

s) Opinions on whether the economic measures are correct and expectations for next year: When asked whether the adjustment measures implemented by the government on 3 March 1991 are the right ones to help the economy recover, 53.6 percent (134) of the respondents stated they are right, 41.2 percent (103) said they are wrong, and 5.2 percent (13) said they did not know or had no response.

These responses are consistent with the population's expectations for the economy in the coming year: 41.6 percent (104) think it will improve, 26.4 percent (66) think it will worsen, 20.4 percent (51) said they did not know or had no response, and 11.6 percent (29) believe the economy will remain the same. A majority, however, believe that inflation and unemployment will be higher next year.

The weightings for the responses on next year's inflation and unemployment are as follows:

Item	Inflation	Unemployment
Higher	37.6	44.4
Lower	31.6	32.8
Same	15.6	14.0
Do not know/no response	15.2	8.8

t) Performance of government officials: The table below is ordered according to the percentage responding "poor." The "poor" category received the largest number of responses.

Name	Good	Fair	Poor	Do not know/no response
Virgilio Godoy	13.6	19.2	50.8	16.4
Francisco Rosales	19.6	22.4	45.2	12.8
Arnoldo Aleman	29.2	18.8	43.6	8.4
Carlos Hurtado	20.0	30.0	34.4	15.6
Humberto Belli	29.2	23.6	30.0	17.2
Ernesto Salmeron	34.8	22.4	26.8	16.0
Violeta Chamorro	34.8	38.4	22.8	4.0
Emilio Pereira	25.2	24.8	21.6	28.4
Antonio Lacayo	39.2	33.2	21.2	6.4
Raul Lacayo	28.4	33.6	21.2	16.8
Humberto Ortega	28.4	30.0	20.4	14.8
Silvio Defranco	24.4	26.8	19.2	29.6

The performance of Virgilio Godoy, Francisco Rosales, and Arnoldo Aleman is viewed quite unfavorably due to their extremist political positions at a time when public opinion is more concerned with economic problems, supports national reconciliation, and gives scant consideration to political issues. Only Antonio Lacayo and Ernesto Salmeron are seen in a favorable light; Lacayo's "good" rating is six points above his "fair" score and 18 points above "poor," while Salmeron's "good" rating exceeds the "fair" and "poor" categories by 12.4 and eight points, respectively. As for President Violeta Chamorro, her "fair" rating is 3.6 points higher than her "good" score and 15.6 points above the "poor" performance rating.

u) Which officials should be replaced? In the survey, respondents were asked which nonelected officials should be replaced, and their answers were as follows:

Name	Yes	No	Does not know/no response
Arnoldo Aleman	50.4	40.8	8.8
Francisco Rosales	48.8	38.0	13.2
Carlos Hurtado	38.4	45.6	16.0
Humberto Belli	35.6	46.0	18.4
Ernesto Salmeron	29.6	51.6	18.8
Raul Lacayo	27.6	55.2	17.2
Humberto Ortega	27.2	58.8	14.0
Antonio Lacayo	25.2	65.2	9.6
Emilio Pereira	20.8	52.0	27.2
Silvio Defranco	20.8	52.4	26.8

The feeling is that Arnoldo Aleman and Francisco Rosales should be replaced, with 50.4 and 48.8 percent of the respondents expressing that opinion, respectively. On the other hand, the largest percentages of responses opposed to replacement correspond to Antonio Lacayo (65.2 percent), Humberto Ortega (58.8 percent), Raul Lacayo (55.2 percent), Silvio DeFranco (52.4 percent), Emilio Perira (52.0 percent), and Ernesto Salmeron (51.6 percent).

v) Role of the Army and of General Humberto Ortega in the country's stability: When asked whether they thought the Army is contributing to stability in the country one year into the UNO administration, 58.0 percent (145) of the respondents said yes, 29.2 percent (73) said no, and 12.8 percent (32) did not know or had no response.

In addition, 57.2 percent agreed that having General Humberto Ortega remain at the head of the Army contributes to stability in the country, in contrast to 32.4 percent (81) who said it does not and 10.4 percent (26) who said they did not know or gave no response.

3. Evaluation of the Three Large Political Blocs

The opinion of the performance of the three major political blocs breaks down as follows:

Group	Positive	Negative	Does not know/no response
Las Palmas Group	48.0	38.4	13.6
Godoy Group	6.4	74.4	19.2
FSLN	33.2	49.6	17.2

It is significant that three-fourths of those surveyed have a negative view of the Godoy Group's performance. There is a slightly unfavorable opinion of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), with 49.6 percent saying its performance is negative and 33.2 percent saying it is positive. The Las Palmas Group is viewed favorably, with 48.8 percent responding positively and 38.4 percent responding negatively.

4. Opinion of U.S. Aid to Nicaragua and the Lawsuit Against the United States in The Hague

According to the survey, 63.6 percent (159) of those interviewed believe that the United States should give aid to Nicaragua; 31.6 percent (79) say it should not, and 4.8 percent (12) do not know or gave no response.

In addition, 69.6 percent (174) are of the opinion that U.S. aid to Nicaragua has been insufficient; 22.8 percent (57) stated that it has been sufficient; and 7.6 percent (19) said they did not know or had no response.

Regarding the president's initiative in the National Assembly to repeal the law declaring that it is in the national interest to pursue the lawsuit in The Hague claiming damages against the United States due to the war, 47.6 percent (119) disagree with the repeal of the

law, 33.6 percent (84) agree with it, and 18.8 percent (47) do not know or did not respond.

5. Opinions of the FSLN

a) Situation of the FSLN after its congress: 33.6 percent (84) of those interviewed believe that the FSLN will emerge stronger after its congress, 35.2 percent (88) think it will be divided, and 31.2 percent said do not know or gave no response.

There were sharp divisions in the different economic categories of respondents in terms of whether they thought the FSLN will be stronger after its congress: Among housewives, 31.9 percent (22) stated that it will emerge stronger, 33.3 percent (23) thought it would be divided, and 34.8 percent (24) said they did not know or had no response. Of the employed respondents, 33.3 percent (20) expressed the belief that the FSLN will be stronger, 31.7 percent (19) said it will be divided, and 35 percent (21) said they did not know or gave no response. Among those who are self-employed or entrepreneurs, 40.8 percent (20) stated that the FSLN will emerge divided from its congress, 32.7 percent indicated that it will be stronger, and 26.5 percent (13) said they did not know or had no response.

b) FSLN's attitude toward stability in the country: There is a great deal of polarization in the opinions regarding the FSLN's support for stability in the country. According to the survey, 46.8 percent (117) think it does support the country's stability, 43.2 percent (108) believe it does not, and 10 percent (25) do not know or gave no response.

The following table shows the responses according to economic category:

Occupational Activity	Yes	No	Does not know/no response	Total
Employed	45.0	38.3	16.7	100
Student	50.0	39.5	10.5	100
Housewife	46.4	46.4	7.2	100
Unemployed	45.0	55.0	0.0	100
Self-employed	44.9	42.9	12.2	100
Business owner or employer	25.0	75.0	0.0	100
Military	75.0	25.0	0.0	100

c) Is the FSLN engaging in confrontation to destabilize the government? There is also polarization on this question: 42.0 percent (105) of those interviewed said yes, 44.0 percent (110) said no, and 14.0 percent (35) said they did not know or gave no response.

d) The FSLN defends the workers and the accomplishments of the revolution. The majority of those interviewed agreed that the FSLN defends the workers (56.4 percent, 141 respondents), while 36.8 percent (92) disagreed and 6.8 percent (17) did not know or had no response.

An even greater majority (74.4 percent, 186) expressed agreement with the idea that the FSLN defends the accomplishments of the revolution, with just 18.0 percent (45) stating that it does not.

Panama

Renegotiation of U.S. Bases Treaty Proposed

PA2305171291 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 23 May 91 p 1

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Legislator Leo Gonzalez, the Legislative Assembly's Canal Affairs Commission president, yesterday again proposed that a base treaty be negotiated to allow a U.S. military presence beyond the year 2000.

According to the Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] legislator, the current military installations on the canal banks could serve as a sort of training complex for U.S. troops and Panama would charge an annual rent for that concession.

Gonzalez believes that Washington wants to keep its bases in Panama, especially in order to control the continent's drug trafficking.

The canal legislative commission president also warned about the country's serious problem resulting from the dismissal of nearly 12,000 workers who benefit from the operation of U.S. bases. These workers earn an average of 1,200 balboas a month and each year contribute 350 million balboas to the economy.

Official Invalidates Arrests of Delvalle, Sosa

PA2305205991 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 22 May 91 pp 40,27

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has decided to invalidate the 6 April 1988 ruling that ordered the preventive arrest of Eric Arturo Delvalle [former president] and Juan B. Sosa [former Panamanian ambassador to Washington].

The Attorney General's Office document adds that the arrest warrant will not be issued again if the accused do not appear at that office within three weeks from now. [sentence as published]

The document explains in detail that citizens Delvalle and Sosa are accused of actions which violate our criminal laws and which are regarded as crimes against the national economy and state security, as stipulated in Article 287 of the Penal Code, with the aggravating circumstance of abuse of authority.

According to the charges against Delvalle and Sosa, they allegedly promoted legal actions against National Bank assets. This meant the freezing of National Bank accounts which were then deposited in the Irving Trust, Bankers Trust, and Republic National Banks.

All of these actions, the document notes, were ordered by a U.S. Federal Court, whereby all Panamanian assets in that country were frozen on the express instructions of Mr. Eric Arturo Delvalle.

The amount of the frozen funds that were turned over to the disposal of Mr. Delvalle, recognized as president of Panama until 31 August 1988, totals $10,784,293.95.

Arias Calderon on PDC's Views on Economic Plan

PA2305191591 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] During a news conference held this morning, Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], announced the party's position in regard to the economic plan presented by the government. According to the PDC, the economic plan does not represent a true plan for development and modernization, but rather an agreement to qualify for international loans, a goal the PDC has described as insufficient.

[Begin Arias Calderon recording] We must say that the plan for reforms, as it was presented, will not receive the support of the PDC. We believe that the current plan for reforms needs serious reconsideration.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate something that is very important for us. We are convinced that Panama needs an overall development and modernization plan that will point us in the direction of a social market economy. The country is asking for this; the country is demanding this. We demand that the government revamp its plan and give us something more serious and comprehensive, with greater social sensitivity. We want a plan we can support. We do not want a country socially and economically at a standstill, as we are at this moment. We want to overcome this situation. This, however, must be done correctly. [end recording]

PDC Legislator Submits Bill on Security Office

PA2305171891 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 May 91 p 26A

[Article by Elkilia Santos]

[Text] Christian Democrat Legislator Gloria Moreno de Lopez has presented to the Legislative Assembly plenum a draft bill to regulate the "presidential intelligence office."

Moreno, who presented the draft bill, said that her proposals were caused by "the executive branch's total lack of action to regulate this institution."

By this, the government is demonstrating "its lack of concern with the problems that generate distress and distrust in the Panamanian community," according to the legislator.

Besides, Moreno noted, this measure seeks to prevent the "intelligence" (state security) office "from being turned into an instrument of political persecution similar to the dismantled Panamana Defense Forces' infamous G-2."

The disclosure by the media of the presence of a "secret espionage office at the Presidency, trained by the CIA and the Venezuelan security organizations, among others," triggered numerous controversies between the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]—at that time a member of the government alliance—and the rest of the official parties.

In light of the PDC's persistence, an ad hoc commission was appointed to investigate the existence of the office, resulting in a confrontation between President Guillermo Endara and some Legislative Assembly members.

This commission, chaired by Gloria Moreno, cannot carry out the investigation because the Supreme Court of Justice ordered its suspension in light of the objection filed by current Deputy Government and Justice Minister Jose Miguel Aleman.

Moreno asserts that there is concern in the Legislative Assembly to determine if the tasks being carried out by the Council for Public Security and National Defense [Conaspuden] comply with the law, or if there is some deviation from its authority. Moreno noted that the commission also wants information on the support personnel, on their training, on their sources of financing, and on the international support the organization receives to carry out its information tasks.

Nevertheless, Moreno said that up until now the president has not presented any draft bill regulating this organization such as the one she has presented.

The draft bill presented by the legislator calls for the Conasepuden to be comprised of four state ministers and chaired by the president of the Republic.

The draft bill also provides for the Conasepuden to have a permanent secretariat that would coordinate the tasks

with the advisory institutions. The president would appoint and remove the secretary and his appointment would be approved or rejected by the Legislative Assembly.

Minister Explains Extradition Request to Peru

PA2305194491 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The Panamanian Government has requested the extradition from Peru of former Major Gonzalo Gonzalez, who is charged with the murder of eight officers belonging to the former Defense Forces who took part in the 3 October foiled military coup against General Manuel Antonio Noriega. Gonzalez left under exile for Peru on 10 May. Panama granted Gonzalez a safe-conduct based on the Caracas Convention, and now Panama has requested his extradition based on an agreement between Panama and Peru in force for the past 20 years.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares refers to this:

[Begin recording] [Linares] On 17 May in the afternoon, the Attorney General's Office requested of the Foreign Ministry that we ask for the extradition of former Major Gonzalez. We asked the Peruvian Government yesterday, through its embassy, for Mr. Gonzalez' extradition, and I understand the Foreign Ministry is later issuing a communique on this.

[Reporter] What about the extradition of other officials?
[Linares] We have not received any replies yet.
[Reporter] Could this evolve into a new diplomatic conflict?
[Linares] Why jump the gun and mention conflicts? Why not be more positive and speak about peace, harmony, and tranquility? [end recording]

Country To Ask Mexico for Banker's Extradition

PA2405122391 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Panama will file before the Mexican Government five requests for the extradition of banker Rafael Arosemena, who is in exile in that country. Rafael Arosemena, who was the manager of the National Bank during the regime of Manuel Antonio Noriega, is being sought by five courts that are handling lawsuits against him. Arosemena must answer to the charges of embezzling millions, corruption of public officials, and other offenses.

Official Files Suit Against Customs Director

PA2305175891 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 21 May 91 p 8c

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] Sergio Anguizola, chief of the Technical Customs Investigations Division (DITA), yesterday filed a criminal suit against Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena before the Attorney General's Office.

Meanwhile, Arosemena said that Anguizola is trying to neutralize corruption investigations that are about to be finalized.

The DITA chief said that there is clear evidence that Arosemena committed several crimes, including embezzlement, complicity to evade taxes, deprival of an individual's right to freedom, abuse of authority, and extortion.

When questioned about the charges, Arosemena replied that he will not stop the investigations and this suggests that Anguizola's suit seeks to neutralize the investigation of him and to intimidate Arosemena. [sentence as published]

He added that in due time the results of the investigation will be revealed and the evidence will be turned over to the Public Prosecutor's Office for an investigation of all officials involved in illegal actions.

As for the case of Customs Narcotics Chief Octavio Rodriguez, Arosemena said that he apparently received a package of cocaine at his office, but failed to report it to the authorities. Instead, he flushed it down the toilet.

Arosemena added that Anguizola was asked to return a red Cherokee Jeep, on which he affixed private license plate No. 4-1634, a Honda Civic, a rifle, and a shotgun.

LA PRENSA Editor on Public's Expectations

PA2405032391 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 May 91

[Interview with LA PRENSA newspaper editor Roberto Eisenmann by unidentified reporter in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Eisenmann] We have not seen anything truly positive, but I am still optimistic. I am still basically optimistic over the country's nongovernment sector, what Jose Ortega y Gassett [Spanish philosopher] used to call the vital country. I think the vital country is vigorous and working hard. The difficulties at the government level are exaggerated if we take a look at the whole picture.

We are tackling the University Law, the Social Security Fund Law, and constitutional amendments, and all these things are vital for the country. We hope that all of us are mature enough to face the situation, and to discuss and debate it, as is done in a democracy, without resorting to violent situations that all will regret.

[Reporter] It seems the people are disappointed because the country's rulers have not met the expectations the people had and for which they fought in the streets.

[Einsemann] That is certainly so. I think all of us are disappointed and disillusioned. We all must lower the expectations we had about our rulers and the opposition. I think that in this administration we will not achieve the things we yearned for during our stuggle. Each of us must

work hard in our fields and think that in 1994 we will have the opportunity to elect, not the best fighters, but the best rulers.

Authentic Radical Party Being Established

PA2405015091 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1214 GMT 20 May 91

[Report by Homero Londono]

[Text] A new political party called the Authentic Radical Party [Partido Radical Autentico] will be registered in late May.

A group of Panamanian citizens have formed a group in Chiriqui Province and Panama City to create this new party. The party will be led temporarily by the well-known and controversial lawyer from Chiriqui Province, Rodrigo Miranda.

Asked about the main objectives of the new party, Miranda said the following:

[Begin Miranda recording] The term radical in political science means to support deep reforms in democratic matters. That is why the party's name is Radical Party and it is preceded by the word Authentic because it is not something that is hypocritical, but very sincere. We want to emphasize this because we want deep reforms. This is a country that is corrupt. The existing political parties are all stained with corruption, drug trafficking, influence peddling, and nepotism. It is something that is embarrassing and depressing for today's Panamanians. We are getting closer to the turn of the century. The start of every century is marked by promises, new courses of action, and great changes and transformations. We believe Panama needs a party that can turn its eyes to the traditional values, the values that have been forgotten for so many years, that have been lost, and that we have to recover so that we can have happy and honorable Panamanians.

That is in sum, the political essence of this new party. By the end of this month, we will have all signatures, draft statutes, and a draft of the political program, and we will have all the documents needed by the electoral tribunal so that we can be considered a party. Once the electoral tribunal resolution is issued, recognizing us as a party, we will open up the registration books and we hope to find support in the Panamanian people, who have been so hurt, so disappointed, and so fooled that they really need a light of hope amid so much darkness. [end recording]

Panamanian Passports Being Sold to PRC Citizens

PA2305210591 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 22 May 91 p 1-A

[Text] An Asian mafia known as the "Fa Yuen" is operating in Panama and Costa Rica and obtaining substantial earnings selling passports from these countries to PRC citizens, according to investigative authorities.

The "Fa Yuen" organization was originally formed in a poor town from which it takes its name in the province of Kwangtung, where the Hakka dialect is spoken. The majority of Asians from the PRC who live in Panama come from this region.

This mafia is believed to be run by a Hong Kong-born former employee of the Immigration Department. He is allegedly involved in the death of a woman which forced him to flee to Venezuela, from where he returned with a different identity.

The authorities believe that the head of the "Fa Yuen" possesses forged or bought Public Forces and Judicial Technical Police identification cards.

The Fa Yuen members find their customers at Chinese restaurants, casinos, and video stores. The investigations have uncovered that the head of the organization has bank accounts in an Asian bank and that he has traveled to Canada, a country where many many Chinese people leaving Panama with false passports travel to.

Argentina

Di Tella Satisfied by Brazilian Decision

PY2405023491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0015 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 May (TELAM)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella has expressed his "great satisfaction over the Brazilian decision to not buy U.S. subsidized wheat" to Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek.

The Foreign Ministry reported tonight that Di Tella said: "With this decision, Argentina and Brazil are preparing themselves for obligations that will be binding after the ratification of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] agreement."

Coast Guard Captures Spanish Fishing Vessel

PY2305213291 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1625 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 May (TELAM)—The Naval Prefecture has reported that the Coast Guard captured a Spanish fishing vessel in Argentine waters today for allegedly violating the fishing law.

Naval Prefect Major Roberto Goni said the Coast Guard cutter Prefecto Fique observed the Spanish fishing vessel Pescamarin at latitude 41 degrees 59 minutes south, longitude 58 degrees 11 minutes west.

Menem Critic Wounded; Another Reports Threats

PY2405003891 Buenos Aries BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 May 91 p 1

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Renowned Argentine film director Fernando "Pino" Solanas was wounded several times in a gun attack yesterday evening hours after he appeared before Judge Martin Irurzun on slander charges brought against him by President Carlos Menem.

Solanas was shot in the legs from a passing car by two undentified assailants as he left the Cinecolor movie studios at the crossing of Panamericana dn San Lorenzo in norther Greater Buenos Aires.

"Shut up, son of a bitch," was shouted at Solanas before being shot at by the gunmen, according to his own account of events reported from the Belgrano neighbourhood hospital where he was taken to last night.

Solanas pinned the blame for the attack on a "a mafia which is ransacking the country" and is seeking to silence him because of recent anti-Menem statements. President Menem condemned the attack last night and offered his personal doctor to attend Solanas.

Solanas is best known for his award-winning films "Sur" and "El exilio de Gardel," and he was working on his latest movie project, "El viaje," when he was shot yesterday. A Peronist, he formed part of the revolutionary Liberacion film group in the 60s. He was forced to abandon Argentina during the wave of violence which swept over the country in the 70s, living in exile in Paris until coming back in 1983, with the return of democracy.

Solanas has been at the heart of a major controversy after he recently told the press that Menem is surrounded by "a gang of thieves," leading Menem to bring a slander suit against him. Solanas appeared before Judge Irurzun, who is handling the case, on Tuesday and stood by his remarks.

"This is just the first round," Solanas is quoted as saying in yesterday's edition of PAGINA 12, who interviewed him after his court appearance. "They asked me to ratify or rectify the statements which led to the charges. I, of course, held to the opinion that we live in a time of brutal economic corruption engendered by fraud and political betrayal."

Another controversial figure also under trial for hard-hitting statements against Menem received a death threat only a few hours previous to the Solanas attack. Hebe de Bonafini, the president of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo, said she received a phone call saying "we're not going to shoot at your legs, but at your head" yesterday. "This proves (the Solanas attack) was a planned affair," Bonafini said. Bonafini received her death threat at 4:45 pm and Solanas was shot at 7:45 pm. "As we've been denouncing, there's a Nazi revival in Argentina," she said.

Bonafini is currently facing "contempt of authority" charges for a Spanish television interview in which she criticized the presidential pardon granted to the military leaders of the 1976/83 dictatorship during which thousands of people "disappeared" after being kidnapped by security and para-military force members.

The Buenos Aires province police yesterday said that the attack was a robbery attempt, and that Solanas received six shots in the legs after refusing to hand over his wallet.

Eric Skinner Heads New TELAM Board

PY2405005891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1639 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 May (TELAM)—The assembly of TELAM stockholders has installed the new executive board of TELAM Information and Publicity Inc, which will be headed by Eric Skinner. The assembly was attended by Mass Media Secretary Raul Horacio Burzaco.

Roberto Gasparini, who was named deputy chairman of the executive board, will continue to be the director of journalism, while Jose Luis Ponsicob, Claudio Loiseau, and Oscar Amilcar Gonzalez were named directors.

Ernesto del Castillo was named new TELAM general manager.

Brazil

Rezek Says Country Not To Buy U.S. Wheat

PY2405033491 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 May 91 Economic Section p 11

[Excerpt] Brasilia—Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek guaranteed yesterday that Brazil will not buy subsidized wheat from the United States. The foreign minister affirmed: "The problem has been resolved because Brazil has to be coherent in its foreign policy, but I do not want to anticipate decisions that are to be finally made by the economic area."

The possibility of that operation—through which 700,000 tons of U.S. wheat were to be sold to Brazil at a price lower than the international market's—elicited in recent days protests from the Argentine Government, producers, and exporters, and created a stir in the relations between Brasilia and Buenos Aires. As a matter of fact, under a bilateral agreement, Argentina has priority in supplying grain to the Brazilian market.

In Minister Rezek's opinion, the problem is resolved because Brazil, as a matter of principle, is against the practice of subsidizing agricultural exports. Brazil has defended this position in international forums, including GATT (General Agreement on Tariff and Trade). [passage omitted]

Nuclear Accord Discussed With Argentina, IAEA

PY2405035491 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 May 91

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 21 May (AFP-NA)—Today in Rio de Janiero, Brazilian, Argentine, and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) representatives began negotiations on a safeguards agreement for the nuclear material produced by the two countries.

Speaking to journalists, Jose Luiz Santana de Carvalho, president of the National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN), said that about 30 articles of a safeguards agreement with the IAEA are being discussed in the meeting that will conclude on 22 May in Rio de Janeiro.

Carvalho added that this agreement excludes from the IAEA safeguards autonomous nuclear technology, basically the military technology developed by Brazil and the technology developed by Argentina.

Carvalho also noted that representatives of the two countries will meet again in June 1991 at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna and that subsequently the agreement will be submitted for the approval of the congresses of the two countries.

Carvalho said that the decision to formalize this agreement was made in November 1990 by Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello and Argentine President Carlos Menem.

Carvalho also noted that Brazil and Argentina "are informed of the production in their respective nuclear areas and now we are discussing the political side of the agreement."

Carvalho added that the two countries will sign a bilateral agreement on inspection of their respective nuclear facilities. He emphasized: "We will establish limits for such inspection without giving up the technology that we have already achieved."

Concerning the agreement with the IAEA, Carvalho said that this agency does not impose a pattern of inspection, but recommends one."

Carvalho said that Brazil and Argentina will establish the limits for such inspection. He added that his country "will not subject to inspection by Argentina or the IAEA Brazilian technology to produce enriched uranium by ultracentrifugation at the Navy Ministry's Aramar Center in Ipero, Sao Paulo State.

Carvalho indicated that neither will Brazil permit Argentina to inspect facilities where Brazil is developing technology to enrich uranium with lasers at the Aeronautics Ministry's laboratories in Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo State, and that Argentina will not permit inspection of the Argentine uranium enrichment plant in Pilcaniyeu, near San Carlos de Bariloche.

Brazil and Argentina signed their first bilateral agreement on nuclear cooperation in May 1980, after the two countries reached an agreement on the hydroelectric use of the Parana River.

Official Thinks Gorbachev May Attend Conference

PY2405011491 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 May 91 p 10

[Text] Yesterday, 22 May, the Soviet Foreign Ministry ordered reservations for 194 hotel apartments in Rio de Janeiro hotels for June 1992, when the 1992 international ecology and environment conference will be held in Rio de Janeiro.

In the opinion of Carlos Garcia, executive secretary of the conference in Brazil, such a numerous delegation is a cue that it might be headed by Mikhail Gorbachev.

Government 'Apprehensive' Over U.S. Drug Role

PY2305220491 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 May 91 p 1 Section 4

[Report by Norton Godoy]

[Text] The Brazilian Government is apprehensive about the growing participation of U.S. military personnel in the antidrug fight in the Andean region. The United

States has for some time tried to make the Brazilian Armed Forces take part in this "war," especially in the Amazon region.

The Brazilian Government opposes the participation of professional military personnel in this fight, claiming that this is a job for the Federal Police. For their part, the Americans claim that the police have no way to take action in such isolated areas as the Amazon jungle.

Yet beneath this exchange of arguments lies a geopolitical issue. The Brazilian Government has picked up signals that the Americans are actually seeking to justify operations that would guarantee them a more dynamic military presence in the region.

Strategists in Washington see the Amazon as a territory of great wealth that remains unprotected. Frequent reports of clearing land by burning and of uncontrolled exploitation of gold have heightened this concern.

At a time when international public attention is focused on the destruction of the environment, many go so far as to contend that Brazilians lack both the intention and the means to preserve "a patrimony of the world."

Brazilian political and military leaders—especially the latter—are therefore concerned. This concern is also the reason behind the caution with which President Bush's Americas Initiative was received in Brazil.

FOLHA found out that in Brasilia it has been easy to understand the weakness of the Andean governments, which ended up accepting the offer of U.S. military advisers because they had no alternatives. They do not have the money, resources, nor legal institutions that would be capable of fighting the drug trade.

This is such a delicate issue that it was included—at the request of the Americans—in the agenda to be discussed by Presidents Fernando Collor and George Bush in Washington next month.

Collor Sends Condolences to Indian President

PY2305145291 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] President Fernando Collor has deeply regretted the murder of Rajiv Gandhi. In a message to Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, President Collor said that harmony and conciliation must prevail in the country.

Chile

Aylwin Addresses Opening of Congressional Session

PY2305120091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2002 GMT 21 May 91

[Address by President Patricio Aylwin to joint session of Congress to open the 1991 congressional session at the Congress Building in Valparaiso—live]

[Excerpts] Messrs. members of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies: Fulfilling my constitutional duties, I have come before you to give the country an account of the administrative and political state of the nation.

After one year and 70 days in government, I can state with great satisfaction that national coexistence is developing in keeping with the state of law. Our blossoming democracy is based on full respect for human rights and freedom, and on the fact that the state branches fully exercise their powers. A climate of peace and understanding prevails within society, especially in the relationship between workers and businessmen, as well as among the various political sectors.

The national economy is sound and promising, showing favorable prospects of stability and growth. Progress, although slow, is being definitely made to solve the serious social problems that plague vast numbers of our fellow countrymen, seeking to build a fair society.

Moreover, Chile has fully reinstated itself in the international scene, earning respect and understanding. This situation clashes with the somber prediction of those who said that our government would bring political chaos, economic disaster, and social unrest to our country. Thank God, and because of the maturity of the Chilean people and the responsible manner in which the government and the main Chilean personalities are trying to fulfill their duties, those somber predictions have been refuted by reality. Chile, today, occupies a privileged position among the developing nations of the world due to its political balance and its favorable socio-economic conditions. Of course, like even the most developed countries, we are not free from problems. In addition to the problems stemming from poverty and those inherent to the growth process, we are especially concerned over the increasing delinquency and the terrorist actions of a small group that seeks to impose violence in our lives. A distinguished member of the National Congress, Senator Jaime Guzman, was recently a victim of terrorism. This is an appropriate moment to pay homage to him and reiterate our resolute determination to resort to all legitimate tools at hand to eradicate terrorism and violence from our nation.

Last year, I addressed this honorable Congress to describe our diagnosis of the Chilean reality at the beginning of this new phase of the country's history. I listed the tasks that my government intended to carry out during its term in office and the basic criteria that would inspire our actions. I would like to recall these tasks:

1. To attain national reconciliation;
2. To consolidate and perfect our democracy;
3. To promote social justice;
4. To encourage the country's growth, development, and modernization; and
5. To reinsert Chile in its historic place in the international community.

How much progress have we made in attaining these goals during our first year in office? This is what I intend

to briefly review in addition to the detailed reports of each ministry that the honorable members of Congress will find attached to the copy of this speech.

First: National Reconciliation.

Consistent with my profound conviction that the reconciliation and the unity of the Chilean family could not be achieved without a serious effort to overcome past wrongdoings, I considered it an inevitable duty to face straightforwardly the problems arising from human rights violations, exile, and the situation of the so-called political prisoners.

In order to advance toward the solution of the first of these problems, we formed the National Commission for Truth and Reconciliation. After nine months, this commission issued a report that I disclosed to the country on 4 March 1991.

The release of that report shook the national conscience. The report's seriousness and balance was appreciated through unanimous approvals by the two branches of this Congress, which expressed their acknowledgement to the members of that commission for their contribution to the truth and to national reconciliation.

I consider it my duty to reiterate to the members of that commission on this solemn occasion the government's appreciation for the valuable service they rendered to the cause of truth and reconciliation among Chileans.

The remarks and reactions to that report, made by respectable institutions and by individuals, do not deny the truth of the bloody events contained in it, but rather refer to the circumstances in which they occurred and attempt to justify those events.

I consider it necessary to reiterate here what I said on 4 March, namely that the acknowledgement of that truth is independent from the judgment that anyone may make on the political events of that time and on the legitimacy of the 11 September 1973 coup. This will be judged by history. Nevertheless, the criteria of these events do not erase the fact that the human rights violations described in the report were actually committed. The acceptance of this truth, shared by the national community, will remove a reason for disputes and divisions among Chileans.

Justice, establishing the whereabouts of many missing people and determining the legally appropriate responsibilities, is a task that must be handled by the courts.

Supporting my plea, both branches of this Congress have expressed their confidence that the courts will conduct a deep investigation—in accordance with current legislation and with the appropriate expeditiousness—into the cases of human rights violations.

The truth, by itself, is part of justice—at least concerning the moral vindication of the victims.

Justice also requires the state—as a part of society—to assume responsibility for its actions or for its neglect, for causing suffering or for failing to prevent it.

Therefore, my government, approving the recommendations made by the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, has presented to you a bill that provides reparation for the families of the victims. I trust that this bill will be favorably studied and dispatched by this Congress.

Regarding the people in exile, the government submitted a draft bill that was passed by Congress as Law 18994 creating the National Office for the Return of People in Exile [Oficina Nacional del Retorno]. This office helps political exiles to return to the country by arranging with national and international organization the necessary social, legal, health, labor, and social security assistance.

It is extremely important that the studies carried out during their term in exile be recognized in Chile in order to make their return to our country attractive and so that Chile may profit from their acquired skills. This is the purpose of the draft bill regarding the validation of degrees currently awaiting the decision of Congress.

Regarding the case of prisoners for political reasons, the government has pardoned all those who have not been directly involved in crimes in which blood was shed and those whose legal proceedings made pardoning possible. But most of these prisoners have pending legal proceedings, during the course of which pardons cannot be granted, and many are charged with terrorist actions that preclude the possibility of being pardoned. The government has proposed ways to solve these cases through judicial channels, through norms that would allow the courts—taking into account the circumstances of each case—to pass the most equitable rulings. This honorable Congress only partially accepted the initiative of passing many of the legal proceedings being handled by the military courts under the jurisdiction of civilian courts. It also accepted the proposal made by the National Renewal Party, with governmental support, authorizing pardons for prisoners charged with terrorist actions. During the short term that has elapsed since this measure was implemented, the courts have unconditionally released several prisoners, and others have been released on parole. I have personally pardoned 99 prisoners. I will continue to exercise my presidential power to pardon with fairness and prudence. I do not agree with those who state that pardoning people charged with terrorist actions contradicts the government's desire to fight terrorism, or with those who insinuate that these pardons are granted merely to maintain a political balance. My government's behavior is not ruled by a mercantilist criteria, but rather by reasons of equity and common well-being. Those arguments overlook the fact that this responsibility is a strictly personal affair. It is like saying that no sinner should be saved because it would encourage more sins. They also forget that in the struggle against terrorism, the most successful results have come

from a combination of harshness and leniency. If Congress grants the chief of state the power to pardon, it is undoubtedly because it understands that it is an efficient tool to solve problems of justice without placing society at risk. The country may rest assured that I will exercise this power with the maximum zeal so that it may really contribute to the reconciliation of the Chilean people and to social peace. May God help me not to err. [applause]

Second: Consolidation and Perfection of our Democracy.

As I said in my previous speech, the government deems it necessary to ensure:

1. full respect of human rights for everyone;
2. the participation of all sectors in the various aspects of a community life;
3. efficient and timely administration of justice;
4. adequate integration between the Armed Forces and the civilian society;
5. fair and efficient security measures; and
6. a balanced relationship among the public branches.

I will now briefly outline the steps taken to achieve these goals:

Respect for human rights: the country is aware of my government's respect for the people and their rights. I am especially determined to guarantee the respect for everyone's rights and freedom with the sole requirement that they abide by the law, which is the only means to attune freedom and order. Freedom of information and expression must be fully guaranteed so that a society may be fully democratic. In order to ensure freedom of information, the government has opened the official news sources to all sectors of the media, without discriminations, and has developed a policy guaranteeing the media's full autonomy, including state-owned sectors such as LA NACION newspaper, Television Nacional de Chile, and Radio Nacional de Chile. [passage omitted]

One of the main problems concerning the true respect of human rights, in view of possible abuses of the state apparatus, refers to the situation of the most needy sectors. These sectors are usually not capable of defending their rights in view of the administrative abuses, and, even worse, they do not even know of the means to defend themselves. Conscious of this problem, I submitted two messages to the Chamber of Deputies: a constitutional amendment and a constitutional organic law that seek to create an ombudsman institution. According to modern constitutionalism and the experience of other countries, this institution could be efficient in solving the aforementioned problem. I am certain that the congressional debate on this subject will allow us to share common points of view on the problem and to find the most adequate way to solve it.

I once again reassert my government's unwavering commitment to ensure the full enforcement and guarantee for the respect of human rights. Human rights are befitting with a state of law that is characteristic of a democracy. We will resolutely continue to seek new and better tools to protect them, and under no circumstances will we tolerate the actions of the state and its agents if they trespass the limits of human rights.

Participation: There is no true democracy without participation. In order to improve the participation level of our society this year we have made some significant progress in sectors related to women and to youths. [passage omitted]

The neighborhood environment is another sector in which participation is necessary to ensure democracy and to involve the society in its development. We must reform the pertinent law so that the neighborhood board may fulfill its natural role of being the setting in which neighbors solve their common problems in an organized manner and contribute to the development of their neighborhood. This is the purpose of the draft bill submitted by the government to Congress. This draft bill is based on two main principles:

1. The neighborhood board should base itself on territorial rather than functional considerations and must represent the neighbors as a whole;

2. It must represent an apolitical participation channel.

I regret the recent decision passed by the Constitutional Court regarding this draft bill. Naturally, I accept and respect the decision but I cannot conceal the fact that, in my capacity as lawyer, I disagree with it. As far as I am concerned, those principles by no means affect the freedom of assembly guaranteed by the Constitution. The neighborhood boards are not private groups that rely on the mere will of the interested parties; they are organizations with a legal status as are the municipalities. One belongs to a neighborhood board because one lives in the neighborhood, as one belongs to the municipality because one lives in the municipal district. I hope this decision will not prevent Congress from favorably assessing the other initiative contained in the draft bill.

The lack of participation by the citizenry at the municipal level greatly curbs the democratic character of our society. The need to democratize the municipal districts is an aspiration shared by the great majority of the Chilean society. This aspiration was formally expressed by all sectors during the last electoral campaign, and there is a consensus on this subject. These facts and a deep belief in this need prompted me last December to appeal to the honorable senators, regardless of circumstantial disagreements, to approve the municipal reform draft bill that had already been approved by the Chamber of Deputies. Unfortunately, my request was not honored.

Through a recent agreement, representatives of the government and of the oposition National Renewal Party, have established a procedure to jointly promote in the Senate a constitutional reform bill on municipal and regional administration first; then, separately, the

respective organic laws, and to concurrently promote within in the Chamber of Deputies a draft bill on municipal revenues [sentence as heard]. I hope this agreement will result in the prompt approval of these initiatives.

The country would not understand, and it would not say much for our politicians, if after having voiced the need to democratize the municipal and regional administration, we are incapable of agreeing on how to carry it out. [applause]

I wish to comment in my capacity as the person responsible for the common well-being of the nation. My government is in favor of handling jointly the constitutional reforms regarding the municipal and regional government, fully understanding that the assessment of the corresponding organic laws must go at their own pace. The municipality is a traditional institution in our political system, as is its democratic representative nature. We have rich experience through our own history on how to debate its reform. We are dealing with a familiar subject. We are well aware of the problems that the municipal government and administration entail. However, the reform of regional government and administration is something we are not acquainted with. This entails a significant innovation in our political system. In this field we lack the background and the tradition that would grant us the direct and necessary experience to help identify the problems that may arise and to find the adequate solutions. We would make a great mistake by merely copying institutional systems that exist in other countries or in getting carried away by principles that, although they may be valid in theory, are very difficult to apply.

Please understand me well. I decidedly favor a regional decentralization process, but I believe it should be carried out on realistic grounds and without affecting the unitary character of the Chilean state. In more developed countries, the regionalization process has taken hundreds of years. We cannot carry out this process overnight. If we do not want to suffer regrettable failures we must make progress gradually and based on experience.

The Efficient and Timely Administration of Justice.

I do not think it is necessary to expand on the current problems of the administration of justice in Chile because they are well known. There is a total consensus among political and social sectors on the need to carry out a judicial reform to solve these problems. While all Chileans, especially the poorest, effectively sense that democracy means the real possibility of justice for all, we will be able to make sound progress in our effort to consolidate democracy.

This consensus is beyond any assessment on the performance of the judicial branch during the latest period of our political life. In response to this urgent need, I have asked Congress to initiate a constitutional reform and the pertinent legal reforms. The basic principles that guide this first set of reforms are as follows: to make the need for change compatible with our juridical traditions; to reinforce the status of the government branch that relates to the judicature; to reinstate the Supreme Court of Justice's mission of unifying the interpretation of law and to provide it with the conditions to improve itself; to incorporate the full validity of human rights in our juridical order; to improve the judicial branch statute, strengthening the impartiality, responsibility, and autonomy of the judges; and to establish mechanisms to promote the permanent professional upgrading of the magistrates.

These draft bills will be complemented by others pertaining to labor judicature, family courts, local courts, and the juridical assistance corporation that is under study and that we expect to soon send for your consideration. The main objective of all this is to make justice available to everyone.

Nothing would be more harmful for our national interest than to turn this reform into the subject of partisan political confrontation. As a man of law, connected with the courts for many reasons, I think that the improvement and modernizing of the Chilean judicial system is an urgent need. The judges themselves agree with this thought. According to studies carried out by the Association of Judges and by other organizations involved with the administration of justice, and beyond any political or partisan ideology—as proven by the work recently published by the Political Studies Center—I invite Congress and all the political parties to study this subject with a constructive spirit and with the best disposition to seek agreements. The ideas included in the draft bill prepared by the government are only a basis for discussion. I know well that some of these ideas may generate distrust, and I know of the existence of some other draft bills. The government is not trying to impose anything, and it expects the same from the rest of the people. We will proceed with wisdom and goodwill. Thus we will take an historical step forward and render a great service to the country.

National Defense.

In order to consolidate our democracy, the Armed Forces must perceive and feel that the people and their authorities understand and support the Armed Forces role as a national institution in charge of defending the country. At the same time, the people and state authorities must perceive and feel that the Armed Forces is an institution that belongs to the entire nation, that it is essentially professional and hierarchic, and not willful. The compliance of these conditions demands reciprocal duties. Civilians, representatives, and authorities must respect the Armed Forces' institution and honor, must provide them with the necessary means so that they may comply with their task, and must firmly avoid any attempt to use them for sectorial or partisan objectives alien to their purpose. The Armed Forces, especially their commands, must fully comply with their professional tasks, must remain subordinate to the government, and must scrupulously abstain from any political

behavior, especially from anything that may connect them with any political sector.

This, which seems so obvious, is not easy to comply with at a moment when the country is emerging from a long military rule. On one hand, the criticism of the regime made by civilians sometimes affects the Armed Forces' institutions and their [word indistinct], on the other hand, the Armed Forces tend to regard as friends those who supported their regime and tend to be distrustful of those of us who opposed them; and there are yet others who, either on one side or the other, continue to remain faithful to the ideological structures of the past that divided Chileans into good or bad.

We must all make a great effort to overcome these obstacles in the name of the interests of Chile. Civilians and men in uniform have the duty of being objective, of avoiding making generalities, and of distinguishing the past regime from the Armed Forces' institutions. This effort will be easier and more fruitful if we leave behind the past, which will be judged by history, and concentrate on our present and future. Faithful to its essential mission of promoting national unity, my government is concentrated on increasingly encouraging the Armed Forces and civilians to share the same values, such as love for the motherland, the spirit of working for the well-being and greatness of Chile, respect for the democratic principles and institutions, and strict compliance with the state of law.

I think that the experience we have gained during this brief period of time is satisfactory and that the mutual awareness we are perceiving—to which the several meetings between civilians and military have contributed—must lead us to create, for the well-being of Chile, an increasing atmosphere of mutual respect, understanding, and trust.

Within this framework, our policy of national defense seeks to ensure an increasing professional conduction and the continuity of the operational functioning of our Armed Forces' institutions that must ignore the political struggles and continue their vital mission of external security and the multiple beneficial roles of peace with which they daily comply.

We recognize that we have to provide them with the necessary means to guarantee their efficiency, within the framework of the multiple social demands and the limited available financial resources.

Democracy has proven favorable for the institutional development and modernization of the Armed Forces and for maintaining their operational level, as was shown by the almost unanimous approval by Congress of the defense budget for 1991. [passage omitted]

Personal Security

The government is particularly concerned about the need to guarantee that all citizens enjoy the essential security conditions for civilized coexistence. Security has been seriously jeopardized by two situations that are common in modern society: crime and terrorism, about which the people are rightly concerned.

The government is properly aware of the seriousness and danger of these evils, and it has strongly tackled those problems within the law and with the means available.

The investigation and punishment of crimes, either common or terrorist, is the exclusive responsibility of the courts, which have the support of Carabineros de Chile and the Investigative Police, which make up the forces of order and security.

This is an essential foundation for a state of law. To ignore it or to disregard it would be equivalent to beginning to destroy our democracy.

Prevention and repression of common crimes and terrorism should always be based on respect for the civil rights of people. Action against crime and terrorism cannot and should not be a synonym for barbarianism and torture or for cruel, inhuman, or debasing treatment, otherwise the long and painful fight that the people have waged for reconquering their traditional freedom and rights will be senseless.

Let me make a specific reference to the way the government has conceived and implemented the fight against crime and terrorism. Our policy against crime has three objectives: prevention, repression, and rehabilitation of criminals. [passage omitted]

Drug addiction and drug trafficking are two other key factors in modern crime. We have resolutely tackled this scourge through the coordinated action of police, health, and customs organizations, and through cooperation with other countries of the continent.

Through a decree, we created the National Narcotics Control Council, whose mission is to coordinate the actions of state institutions and agencies against the production, illegal trafficking, and improper consumption of drugs. [passage omitted]

Terrorism

Terrorism and political violence, evils that currently affect many countries, did not appear for the first time during this government term; the military government already was having to cope with it.

There are those who claim that democracy is allegedly unable to prevent and repress this scourge, as compared to the alleged efficiency of authoritarian governments.

Those who long for the authoritarianism of the past usually endorse this view. However, they seem to forget many facts of that past that prove them wrong. They also forget that if now there are just a few terrorist organizations, it is mainly because the parties that are now in the government have adopted a political behavior that rejects the logic of war and the use of violence. [applause]

If the parties of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy had not been able to promote a broad social consensus around the idea that it was both possible and necessary to fight for freedom through peaceful means, terrorist activities would have reached such a magnitude that it might have been impossible to consolidate our democracy.

I once again reiterate that I am convinced that democracy can efficiently defend itself from terrorism—other democracies have succeeded in this endeavor—and that this can and must be done by respecting the essence of democracy.

We will prevent and we will repress terrorism through all available means, with increasing efficiency, within the law and democracy, yet respecting the jurisdiction and powers of each branch and state institution.

The formulation of antiterrorist policies is a responsibility of the state that cannot be undertaken using partisan criteria, electoral logic, or in terms of a confrontation between the government and the opposition.

We need a broad consensus in this area. That is why last March I summoned the leaders of all the parties that have representatives in Congress to ask them for their help, so that the country can unite to fight terrorism. This is the only way in which terrorists can be isolated.

The government hails the creation of congressional committees that participate in the study and the design of the antiterrorist strategy. The government is confident that the joint analysis of this issue will lead to a consensus in which all democrats will thoroughly commit themselves, avoiding the use of this factor as a source of possible political advantage.

There are three types of measures in the antidrug fight; first, the role of preventive intelligence work; second, through sociopolitical preventive measures; third, through the investigation and punishment of terrorist actions.

Preventive intelligence work, which includes coordinated and strategic planning of the activities by the pertinent government institutions and services, has become very important in the prevention of terrorism and political violence.

The government has therefore deemed it necessary to grant a higher institutional level to these activities by creating the Public Security Coordinating Council, which is subordinated to the Interior Ministry, to advise the presidency of the Republic. It must be pointed out that the organizational structure of this council comprises a direct advisory committee and an intelligence consulting committee that is made up of the interior under secretary, the chiefs of the intelligence services of the three branches of national defense, and the chiefs of the intelligence services of the forces of order and security. Thus, we have created an institutional space in which to coordinate the overall national intelligence community and to increase our efficiency in preventing terrorist activities.

In the face of criticism by those who believe that the establishment of this council is insufficient, I would like to point out the following:

1. The government is open to all ideas and it hopes to receive concrete suggestions from the Senate, from the parliamentary committees, and from the political parties. We intend to submit to Congress a bill granting a legal structure to the organization that will definitively be in charge of the antiterrorist fight. This bill will be based on the governmental experience on the issue and on the suggestions received. While this bill is being studied, discussed, and approved, the government will use its authority to fight terrorism until such an organization is established.

2. To fight terrorism, the government will in no way accept the establishment of organizations such as the ones that existed in the previous regime and that are clearly incompatible with constitutional rules and democratic principles. [applause]

The antiterrorist fight is mostly based on the political, social, and cultural isolation of terrorism. When all socially significant political forces publicly reject terrorism and unconditionally condemn it, society will have taken an important step toward preventing terrorism. There can be no ambiguous positions. I repeat the call to those who maintain mistaken positions regarding this serious issue. No Chilean should be excluded from Chilean democracy. To be a part of this democracy, however, all Chileans must unconditionally follow the democratic rules.

The effective prevention and repression of terrorism also calls for changes in the collective mentality of sectors of our society. Some people probably still see the idealism and romanticism of heroes in the action of terrorists, while others—for social and economic reasons—are still lenient toward terrorism. We need a decisive educational and cultural campaign to persuade Chileans that terrorism is synonymous with delinquency and that to contribute to the prevention and investigation of terrorist acts is not condemnable: It is a sign of civic courage and of concern about our common welfare.

I urge all Chileans to contribute to the effort of changing mentalities regarding terrorism because only in this way will we be able to isolate it.

Another important problem in the prevention of this scourge is what we might call the rehabilitation of terrorists. It is very hard for those who join terrorist organizations to leave. These organizations make it very difficult for their members to rejoin a democratic social and political life. It is very hard for them to leave the vicious circle that they are in.

The government must help those who seek to rejoin the democratic life. By doing so, the government not only helps many persons who are in desperate situations, but also weakens the terrorist phenomenon itself. This is why I began to prepare a bill making it easier for the members of the terrorist organizations who want to rejoin our democratic society to cooperate with the justice system.

It is exclusively up to the courts to investigate and punish terrorist crimes. In this, the courts will be assisted by Carabineros and the Investigative Police. In this regard, they have the (?unconditional) support recently granted to them by the executive branch. I am sure that all Chilean institutions and all the sectors of our society will render similar support to the antiterrorist fight. I am also sure that, with serenity and civic courage and without sacrificing our liberties and our civilian rights, we will be increasingly effective in our antiterrorist fight and more able to protect the security of our citizens in accordance with the principles of peaceful coexistence and democracy.

Improvement of the Government

To improve the effectiveness of the government, we have proposed a bill modifying the laws that regulate the ministries, the Presidency Secretariat General, and the Government Secretariat General. The bill also transforms the former National Planning Office into the Planning and Cooperation Ministry. The approval [as heard] of these projects has signified an improvement of our administrative organization. In addition to that, the government is studying and presenting other projects to make the administrative work more flexible and expeditious. Simultaneously, we have been studying broader plans to consolidate criteria on institutional democratization that were contained in the platform presented to the country during the campaign that led to my election as president of the Republic by the Coalition of Parties for Democracy. These plans include the constitutional court, the electoral system used in parliamentary elections, the statutes and the financing of the political parties, the appointment and term in office of the Armed Forces chiefs and of the chiefs of the forces of the order, Carabineros and the Investigative Police, the duration of the presidential term, and the strengthening of the role of Congress and its relations with the executive branch.

Joint studies carried out by the Coalition of Parties for Democracy and the National Renewal Party in early 1989 revealed a consensus on the need to issue amendments on some of these issues. These amendments were not included in the constitutional reform approved during the July 1989 plebiscite because the government at that time did not allow it. The mere idea of submitting these amendments to Congress for consideration prompts some people to say that they will create a climate of uncertainty or that they will affect national stability. Some people even go to the extreme of accusing the government of trying to dismantle the Constitution. I regard those fears as unjustified, and I categorically reject such hasty accusations. There is clearly no chance of the Constitution being dismantled in view of the constitutional mechanism to carry out these reforms, which demands a qualified quorum, and taking into account the balance of forces within the National Congress. My government lacks the necessary mayority in Congress to approve, without the support of institutional or opposition senators, any constitutional reform. At least during this current phase, a consensus is necessary to carry out any constitutional amendments.

I am deeply convinced that the constitutional norms currently in force on those matters—which were not born from a consensus—are incompatible with a truly democratic government system and can seriously jeopardize the good operation of the state. I therefore hope to reach, at the appropriate time, the necessary agreements to make the constitutional amendments. And I see no reason why proposing the reforms could affect the stability of our political regime.

On the contrary, what jeopardizes such stability is the fact that some institutions or mechanisms appear unjust and arbitrary to a large part of the population who question their legitimacy. A great agreement is necessary to promote a reform that, based on a wide consensus, would eliminate the source of potential instability. Reaching an understanding on this matter would mean taking a great step toward the consolidation of our democracy.

As the proposals for the reforms were part of the government platform on which I was elected, I consider that I committed myself to propose them to the Chilean people during my administration. When I do it will depend on the circumstances, especially on the agreements that may be reached. In any case the reforms that we are now considering are those ones related to the municipal and regional governments and to the judicial system. If we do not make progress on these issues I believe that it would be premature to propose other amendments. [passage omitted]

Growth, Development and Modernization

My administration's economic policy advocates stable and balanced growth that would guarantee sustained improvement in the standard of living and would integrate all Chileans into development. During the period for which I am accounting, we sought to fulfill three main objectives: to ensure and consolidate a macroeconomic balance, to generate resources for social expenditures through tax reforms, and to guarantee the necessary conditions for sustained growth in the long term. I can assert with satisfaction that we have achieved these objectives. I believe that 1990 will be recalled as the year when investments were made for the people, for stability, and for growth.

Regarding stabilization, the success achieved was to do away with the uncertainty created by a process of transition. The most sensible indicators of the economic agents show positive results. It is enough to mention two

of them. The value of shares increased to more than 70 percent in the last 12 months, and national and foreign private investment reached the highest level of the last decades.

Also, exports increased substantially, especially the less traditional exports. An unusual level of foreign investment was reached. An important amount of international reserves was accumulated. The foreign debt was successfully negotiated. Agreements that strengthened and opened new possibilities in the relations with Chile's main commercial partners were signed. Relations with multilateral organizations were strengthened. Furthermore, an environment of trust of our economy by the international community was created.

For the next few years, if no extraordinary events occur, we can predict stable growth that we estimate can be around 5 percent a year. To achieve that we need more investments, especially from the private sector. The competitiveness of productive activity must be increased, and the modernization process must be accelerated to cover the entire economy. The stage of growth based on the use of the idle capacity of plants came to an end in 1989. Therefore, we will only continue to grow if investments that expand productive capacity are made. In order to fulfill the proposed objective, the total investment must reach levels around 20 percent of the gross national product.

The growth of the economy is based mainly on private exports. Starting this year, it is estimated that the exports alone will account for more than half of the growth of the country. Therefore, the investment effort must concentrate mainly on the expansion of production of the private export sector. So far, new private investment has been channelled to export activities in which the country has a competitive position especially in mining, fruits, fish, fishmeal, paper, and cellulose. These activities must contribute to growth. Therefore, they must be consolidated within the framework of an increasingly more open and competitive international economy.

But along with these activities, if we do not want to decline or stagnate, we must move toward the diversification of our export products and our markets. We must leap forward toward a new stage of export development through technologically more advanced products. This is the only way we will be able to overcome the vulnerable points of our economy and to successfully compete in highly dynamic markets. [passage omitted]

We are committed to improving the living standards of the wage earners and the needy sectors of this country. Every Chilean citizen is aware, however, that salary increases must keep pace with production and productivity increases.

If wages and salaries increase in an unbridled manner, price increases will end up absorbing their purchasing power. Salaries will be nominally higher but, in practice, with the inflation they will unleash, they will deteriorate instead of improving the workers' living standards.

In order to protect the peoples' living standards, we must curb inflation. I wish to reiterate that the government will do its share in this task. If necessary, we will not hesitate to control or even reduce public expenditures to curb inflation. The country should understand that during 1990 and 1991 we have made a great effort to increase our social expenditures and public investments to improve our infrastructure. This rhythm of growth cannot be maintained in the future; it will have to keep pace with the growth of our economy. Fiscal discipline, with the active cooperation of the cabinet and heads of public services, will be one of the government's priority targets. We will also have to be especially careful about the pace with which we increase salaries. The labor organizations have understood that salary increases must be carried out in a gradual manner in order not to trigger inflation and so that our economy may successfully compete in the international markets. This policy should be maintained in the future.

Economic growth will not be something spontaneous; neither will it be a miracle as some enlightened people want us to believe. In order to grow, we must save and invest. The country has the necessary projects and funds to make this investment. We invite national and foreign investors to actively participate in the implementation of these projects that will provide job opportunities to the Chilean generations that are just now joining the working force.

The opening of new markets and the country's projection abroad will also have to be the result of a resolute and joint effort of the country as a whole. No task is of a more national nature and, at the same time, more attractive than the one designed to project our fatherland so that it may gain a growing presence in the new world that is emerging. Progress in attaining all these objectives will be gradual. We will make progress, but sometimes we will also take steps backward. We will achieve our goal by working united. My government will work steadily to give the country a strong, stable economy that will be integrated with the rest of the world, and fair; that is, an economy for all. We will work for the prosperity of all Chileans, but we will never forget that the most needy sectors of Chile are the ones who most need new opportunities. [applause] [passage omitted]

Our policies were designed to achieve Chile's full reinsertion into the international community. Furthermore, these policies seek to promote cooperation with multilateral organizations, bilateral relations with other states, peace among countries, respect for human rights and international law, and the development of nations, as well as the promotion of justice, cooperation, and solidarity.

I am pleased to say that the first of these objectives has been broadly achieved. The mere installation of the democratic government marked an important progress. This was demonstrated by the number and rank of the delegations that attended my inauguration ceremony and the official visits we received during 1990. We

hosted the presidents of Argentina, Colombia, Uruguay, the PRC, and the United States, and the UN secretary general. I had the honor to visit Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, Venezuela, Spain, the United Kingdom, the Low Countries, Italy, the Vatican, and Germany. These visits have not only been a good opportunity to strengthen our relations with those states but also an opportunity to see the respect and affection that Chile inspires abroad. The warm reception granted to the Chilean president during his speeches at the United Nations and the European Parliament had special meaning. [passage omitted]

We are promoting concrete integration projects with other regional governments. We have signed, or we are about to sign, advanced economic coordination agreements with Mexico and Venezuela. We have began to negotiate similar agreements with other Andean countries as well.

We continue to work with Argentina and Brazil to achieve the best economic and trade relations possible. We have laid a solid network of interrelations with Latin America and the Caribbean. Our relations have improved significantly with almost all states. I must stress the important contacts that we have established with Central American countries. I have invited the presidents of those countries to visit Chile.

Our relations with the United States have entered a stage of frank cooperation. Our bilateral relations improved significantly after my visit to Washington in October and President Bush's visit to Chile in December. An expression of this improvement was Chile's return to the investments insurance system, the OPIC [Overseas Private Investment Corporation], the return of our country to the Generalized System of Preferences, the lifting of sanctions imposed by the Kennedy amendment, and the signing of a basic agreement on trade and investments.

It is also important to note the resumption of normal relations between the two countries in the field of defense. The expression of this new relationship is the joint program designed during the recent defense ministers' meeting in Washington.

We expect to advance toward a free trade agreement with the United States during the next meeting of the basic agreement council, always within the spirit of President Bush's Americas Initiative.

The European Community is Chile's main trade partner. Therefore, the issue of trade and investment between Europe and our country was a priority in our recent tour through that continent. There, as everywhere else, we advocated a fair and open economic relationship and the removal of the tariff and nontariff barriers involving our products, especially those with larger added value. We made it very clear that we were not asking for aid from our friends in the world, but for a fair treatment for our products, a treatment based on reciprocity.

Our contacts with Asian and Pacific countries have been strengthened and increased. We have increased the efforts aimed at strengthening Chile's projection toward the Pacific, both concerning the increase of our trade with the Pacific Basin countries, as well as increasing our participation in the trans-Pacific cooperation organizations.

Incidentally, Chile will fully join the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference in the next few days in Singapore.

We have reestablished relations with nations of central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, Oceania, and the Caribbean, thus implementing our principle of pluralism in the management of international relations and our desire to establish contact with all countries of the world.

Our negotiations with the United States, our discussions in Europe, our joining the Pacific Basin, our interest in integration, and our opening to new regions meet the guidelines that we have established for international economic relations.

In this regard, Chile is a country that has changed profoundly. Today, 38 percent of our GDP depends on our foreign transactions. To assume this change means to permanently make an effort to increasingly open new markets and create new opportunities for our products, especially for those adding value to our natural resources, and not continue just or primarily exporting raw materials. This makes it indispensable to maintain a policy open to foreign investments, a policy that will permit us to maintain a favorable capital and technology flow for our country's productive development, as well as strengthening Chilean investments in other countries.

Chile has signed a multilateral agreement for settling disputes with nationals from other states. Over the next few months, we expect to advance in the negotiation of agreements on the protection of investments and on double taxation in order to strengthen our currently advantageous foreign investments system. [passage omitted]

In sum, our country once again has joined the international scene, and its voice is heard by the international community. We believe we are treading the right path without aspiring to any leading role and only wishing to constructively participate in the international community inspired by the desire to cooperate for better understanding among all nations.

I reiterate that the government, in this field more than in any other, aspires and makes every effort possible for Chilean foreign policy to be a state policy, resulting from a great national consensus above any partisan differences. We believe we are thus loyally and efficiently serving Chile's higher interests.

Honorable congressmen, as I end my speech I wish to share with you and with all my fellow countrymen three brief thoughts:

The first one refers to the magnitude of the task that lies ahead of us. When we compare the degree of progress and the living standard reached by the most developed countries with the pitiful poverty in which more than a third of our population lives and the scarce resources we have to solve so many problems, we become aware of great and prolonged effort that lies ahead of us. Chile can undoubtedly achieve a lot as it has proven in crucial moments throughout its history. But the country's energies to overcome the great challenges cannot be mobilized with easy slogans nor dogmatic formulas. In order to enjoy the peoples' sacrifice, effort, discipline, and patience that are necessary to pull out of the crisis, we need clear ideas about all the problems; that is, political, economic, social, and cultural problems of the country. A strong sense of justice is also necessary so that everyone may feel encouraged to participate in the effort knowing that they will also benefit from the result. Those who lead or head the process also need great moral authority. It is the duty of those of us who exercise the state powers, or of those who belong to political parties, to the media, or other sectors that participate in the country's leadership to earn that moral authority with our behavior.

I cannot conceal how sad I feel about not being able to expeditiously satisfy the legitimate hopes of so many compatriots, especially the young people who have hundreds of problems; namely those who aspire to a stable job, a worthy salary, and a decent home. Our main efforts are focused on them, and, as this state of the nation reveals, we have made significant progress in this direction.

My second thought is one of appreciation for all those people who, in one way or another, are cooperating with the effort the government is making. Naturally, I thank my closest aides who are making an effort, showing their capacity, responsibility, patriotism, and willingness to work as a team, to fulfill their duties in a modest and calm manner. I also thank the member parties of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy who support the government in an exemplary manner and the social organizations that appreciate the government's concerns and cooperate with us. I also thank the opposition parties for the willingness they have shown on several occasions to reach understandings that will allow us to solve problems. But my special thanks goes to the people of Chile, the many men and women who comprise our fatherland, for their mature and responsible understanding that this government is determined to gradually solve their problems.

Finally, I wish to appeal to all my fellow countrymen and, especially, to the social and political leaders and to you, Messrs. Congressmen, to maintain your willingness to come to understandings that we have tried to implement during this first year in power. There is only one Chile despite its rich diversity. Because we believe in the peoples' dignity, we must respect our differences. The right to defend one's opinion and to propose the solutions one may deem best is the essence of democracy. But the country's higher interests demand that, in order to consolidate our blossoming democracy, we emphasize what unites us rather than what separates us. Fortunately, probably because experience has taught us a lesson, the Chileans today enjoy a unity of criteria regarding basic issues. This gives us a basis for contining to tread the path of understandings; that is, the path of national unity. I invite you to strive for unity because I believe this is what the common well-being of our Chile requires. [applause]

Colombia

Official Says Pablo Escobar Could Be Arrested

PA2405044591 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Despite the guarantees offered by Defense Minister Oscar Botero Restrepo to Father Garcia Herreros for Pablo Escobar's surrender, today it was announced that security corps will not lower their guard.

[Begin Botero recording] He has not been found by the security corps, which is unusual, because while Pablo Escobar is making contacts with Father Garcia Herreros, he is avoiding the authorities at all costs. We must take into account that there is an arrest warrant against Pablo Escobar and, therefore, we would arrest him the moment we found him because we cannot ignore the judges' order. [end recording]

Regarding Escobar's request that the Army and not the police be in charge of his custody if he decides to turn himself in, here is what Minister Botero said:

[Begin Botero, in progress] ...Justice Ministry, through the current jail system in Colombia and the jail authorities are responsible for the detainees in the country. [end recording]

Gaviria Disagrees With Assembly on State of Siege

PA2305213291 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 May 91 pp 1, 6-C

[Text] On 16 May, the government firmly defended its original proposal to modify the current state of siege, although the Constituent Assembly's fourth commission approved a plan that markedly differs from the government initiative.

President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo stated that, in his opinion, the future state of siege regulation should allow the executive branch to confront the growing threat of violence and terrorism.

Gaviria, who spoke on the 51st anniversary of the General Santander Police School, said that the new

constitution must clearly point out which rights can be restricted during a state of siege and must establish progressive states of siege.

The president said: "Our democracy is being discredited because the world community is getting a distorted image of a powerful state of siege. Paradoxically, and evidently with reason, among ourselves the state of siege is increasingly viewed as an inefficient tool for restoring public order."

The president explained that there are many advantages to constitutionally establishing which rights can be restricted when the government decrees a state of siege.

"To begin with, it would expressly define which rights are untouchable. It would establish guarantees to avoid abuses or transgressions when exceptional restrictions are implemented.

"We would know for certain how far the executive's powers go during a state of siege. The rules of the game would be clear, thereby promoting efficient actions by the authorities, reducing the uncertainty that currently exists in this regard, and allowing politics-free constitutional judges to be reasonable arbiters in critical times."

Gaviria also explained that progressive states of siege would allow the establishment of clear regulations so that the greater the threat, the greater the powers to deal with them, the greater the president's responsibility, and the more precise the legal controls.

"It is a matter," the president said, "of rationalizing the use of the state of siege and introducing elements of proportionality between the seriousness of the situation and the powers to resolve it.

"Thus, realistically, the danger of abuses would be reduced; when rationality and proportions are absent from measures that are adopted, we are at risk of transgressions, excesses, and arbitrariness.

"One question sums up this concern. Does it make sense to invoke and implement war powers in response to an uprising as we are doing now? Of course not.

"That is why progressive states of siege represent considerable progress over a sole state of siege that grants equal powers for dealing with a foreign aggression as it does for dealing with a violent strike.

"The creation of different states of siege has another advantage for Colombia: It prevents the state of siege from becoming permanent, with the consequent weakening of this institution when it loses its intimidating capabilities and when the people lose respect for it."

With this explanation to the military and police hierarchies, the president rejected the decision adopted on 15 May by the Constituent Assembly— one of the reports was by Hernando Herrera—because from now on the state of siege will have only two levels with which to confront abnormal situations: one for foreign war and another for cases of internal disturbances.

Gaviria explained that Article 121, which gave way to the state of siege, was created to confront public order problems in the modern era, for a Colombia in a state of upheaval.

"That is why finding the middle ground that we were talking about depends, under the current system, on the opinions of the government and Supreme Court.

"As it stands, Article 121 is enlarged or reduced in accordance with interpretations, and that is not convenient. It not only seriously endangers freedoms and rights, but it generates uncertainty over the government's real power to achieve peace.

"It is difficult to establish a deadline for a state of war because no one knows how long a foreign aggression will last. However, it is possible to establish a deadline for internal problems, at the end of which the government must render an account of its efficiency or inefficiency.

"On the other hand, if there is only one state of siege, the possibility of its being used for a foreign war renders it ridiculous to establish a short term for it. Once the deadline passes, what happens with the measures adopted? At present they are taken to Congress where they are permanently enforced.

"This, then, should be the key criteria for deciding on the enforcement of the measures adopted: Those that are exclusively police measures can only be adopted during a state of siege. Those that are of a legislative nature, but do not particularly restrict rights, for example increased penalties or modifications of the penal procedure, can be enforced once the state of siege is lifted, as long as Congress ratifies them.

"Nevertheless, those of a legislative nature that inflict exceptional restrictions on rights cannot be enforced permanently because that would prolong the state of siege indefinitely."

Report on Recent Government-Rebel Clashes

PA2305194991

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on low-intensity government-guerrilla clashes and activities monitored from Colombian media from 14-19 May:

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 14 May carries a 150-word report on page 8a on the death of two officers, three junior officers, three police agents, and one marine who "accidentally died on 13 May while trying to defuse a bomb in Bucaramanga." Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish on 17 May carries a 125-word report on page 7 on a combined Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, and Army of National Liberation,

ELN, attack on a police station in Bolivar Department on 16 May. According to the report, "no casualties were registered."

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 17 May carries a 180-word report on page 7c on the death of two ELN guerrillas during an encounter with Army troops on 16 May in the jurisdiction of Barrancabermeja. According to the report, "the guerrillas were trying to blow up an oil pipeline at the time of the encounter." The same report refers to a clash in Antioquia Department on 16 May between ELN guerrillas and troops of the 15th Brigade, during which three guerrillas were killed. In addition, a FARC guerrilla was killed on 16 May by troops of the Operative Commando No. 2 in the community of Cano Negro, Arauca Intendency.

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 18 May carries a 2-minute report on the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla National Coordinating Board, CNGSB, attacking the Municipality of Morales on 17 May. The report states that the "attack lasted approximately five hours and resulted in one policeman dead, one wounded, and 17 others kidnapped, including the police commander."

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 1800 GMT on 18 May carries a 1-minute report on "five soldiers being wounded and one guerrilla killed when ELN guerrillas blew up a military truck on the Barrancabermeja-Bucaramanga highway crossing on 18 May."

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 0100 GMT on 19 May carries a 2-minute report on ELN guerrillas attacking an Army patrol in Santander Department on 18 May, which resulted in six soldiers wounded and one guerrilla killed.

Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 19 May carries a 3-minute report that says 392 persons have been killed so far during 1991. According to military sources, "this figure includes civilians, policemen, soldiers, farmers, and guerrillas." The report adds that "since 1 January, 112 soldiers and 104 policemen have been killed." It says that the "FARC has killed 18 farmers, and the ELN has killed 34 farmers accused of being informers." The FARC conducted 51 attacks against military garrisons, and 18 attacks and 128 skirmishes against Army patrols. According to the report, 69 FARC guerrillas were killed, 112 rebels were wounded, and 25 were captured.

The report adds that ELN guerrillas have conducted "14 skirmishes, 12 robberies of financial institutions, and 42 armed clashes with police authorities," which have left a toll of 44 ELN guerrillas killed. ELN guerrillas conducted 121 terrorist attacks, two acts of sabotage, and more than 50 roadblocks in different sectors, the report concludes.

The same newscast carries a 1-minute report on a FARC ambush that took place in Meta Department on 19 May against troops of the 9th Brigade, where one soldier was reported killed.

Supreme Court Upholds Constituent Assembly Powers

PA2305175791 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] The Supreme Court of Justice has rejected four lawsuits that challenged the National Constituent Assembly's right to declare itself sovereign and to enforce its own rulings. The Supreme Court's decision agrees not only that the Constituent Assembly is supreme, but that the Constituent Assembly's actions are empowered by the people.

Ecuador

Spanish Foreign Minister Views Cooperation

PA2305145491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1805 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Quito, 22 May (EFE)—Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez stated today that the Spanish police "works well" with the police of the Andean countries in the struggle against drug trafficking.

Fernandez-Ordonez, who ended his official three-day visit to Ecuador and traveled to La Paz today, recalled that, based on Spain's initiative, the EC had granted preferential tariffs to the Andean countries to help them combat drug trafficking.

The Spanish minister refused to give details of the cooperation between the Spanish and the Andean countries' police groups because, he said: "In these cases, discretion is an essential asset."

In Quito, Fernandez met with President Rodrigo Borja, Vice President Luis Parodi, Congress President Edelberto Bonilla, and held working meetings with his colleague, Diego Cordovez. With the latter, the Spanish foreign minister studied the cooperation and trade exchange programs between the two countries.

The Spanish minister said Spain had invested approximately $90 million in "soft" credits for several development programs in Ecuador. He asserted that Spain's cooperation will increase to the agreed $350 million [approximately 350 billion pesetas] stipulated in the Global Commercial and Financial Cooperation Program signed during Borja's visit to Madrid in 1989.

According to Fernandez-Ordonez, the commercial exchange between the two countries is approximately $100 million (approximately 100 billion pesetas).

The Spanish minister said that relations with Ecuador "have reached a very good level."

In regard to the commemoration of the fifth centennial of the discovery of America, Fernandez-Ordonez said "we have to look forward" and strengthen relations between Latin American countries and Spain for our mutual benefit.

The minister added that all the Latin American heads of state have been invited to the Barcelona Olympic Games and to all the commemorative events that are to be celebrated in Spain next year.

Comments on Gandhi

PA2305014791 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez has expressed deep regret over the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, saying that the world has lost a great politician.

[Begin Fernandez-Ordonez recording] I knew former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He had visited Madrid. There are two things that concern me. The first is the democratic instability in India. India is a great democratic country, and a large country in any case. Therefore, any kind of instability is always a cause for concern. We are convinced, however, that India will overcome this horrible incident. Second, and undoubtedly, a great politician has been lost and it will be very difficult to replace him. [end recording]

After ending an official three-day visit today, the Spanish foreign minister deaprted for La Paz, Bolivia. During his stay in Quito, Fernandez-Ordonez met with President Rodrigo Borja, Vice President Luis Parodi, and Congress President Edelberto Bonilla. He also held working meetings with his colleague Diego Cordovez, with whom he signed bilateral cooperation and commercial exchange agreements.

Borja Swears In New Public Administration Boss

PA2305145291 Paris AFP in Spanish 0604 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Quito, 20 May (AFP) [dateline as received]— On 21 May, Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja swore in Gonzalo Ortiz, one of his closest associates, as the new secretary general of administration (cabinet chief). Ortiz relieves Washington Herrera in this position.

The president praised Ortiz's personality and said he was sure that Gonzalo Ortiz's work would allow the government to continue its scheduled work program.

Herrera was appointed ambassador to Chile and will occupy the post at the end of this month.

Ortiz had occupied the position of secretary for social communication and later was secretary of the Presidency in Borja's social democratic regime. He resigned from the latter position in January 1991 to head a list of candidates to the national comptroller general's position. However, he was rejected by Congress.

Peru

Fujimori Says UN To Monitor Antidrug Program

PY2405041291 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori said tonight that it is essential to obtain UN participation in monitoring the antidrug agreement. The president was thus accepting a request from representatives of Alto Huallaga coca producers who visited him at Government Palace.

[Begin Fujimori recording] You are understandably mistrustful because you have suffered a lot. But we have to trust in the strength and endurance of peasants and the people. We can do a lot if we trust our people. Your doubts about the effectiveness and efficiency of this agreement are understandable. I agree that it should be monitored, followed, to see if the terms and objectives of the agreement are being respected. I agree that we have to think about a neutral organization, not about a specific group or groups representing the parties involved. I think the participation of the United Nations is essential.

Yesterday we contacted the UN secretary general. We talked with Mr. (Yoyo Yakomeni). He is the executive director of the UN Narcotics Control Program, (?UNNCP). I am announcing here, and you can repeat it publicly—we obviously need to negotiate some points—that Peru and the United States have committed themselves to accepting this monitoring, this follow-up by a UN committee to guarantee that our objectives in favor of peasants and their organizations are carried out peacefully and efficiently. We want a peaceful and authentic process. There are many things that can be improved in the agreement. This is a framework agreement. We are going to enrich it with your proposals.

We have the best of intentions. My government, as well as the U.S. Government, have the best of intentions. We are concerned, and they are concerned even more because this problem affects millions of their young people. We have the best intention to solve this problem in a definitive way. The six months we have established is to make sure that we can implement all complementary measures. Perhaps we can implement the program in a shorter time. If this is possible it will be because you have been working in an alternative program for three years and you have a lot of experience in the matter. We can incorporate in the agreement all we have already learned. [end recording]

Wants More U.S. Aid

PY2405024491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1815 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Lima, 23 May (EFE)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said today that the country would

accept U.S. military equipment and training to fight drug trafficking. However, Fujimori rejected direct U.S. intervention.

Fujimori held a news conference with foreign correspondents during which he forecast the failure of the antinarcotics struggle if Washington does not increase its aid offer to Lima.

The Peruvian president said that conditions in Peru are not appropriate for peace negotiations with the Shining Path (Maoist) or the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] (communist). Fujimori described the guerrillas as "groups of criminals who murder innocent people" and "drug traffickers' hired assassins and mercenaries."

The United States has announced that it will give Peru $60 million that had been appropriated for antidrug programs in 1990 plus $100 million for the same purpose during 1991.

In Peru, the world's largest producer of coca, the raw material of cocaine, officials believe, however, that a rational program to eradicate over 200,000 hectares of coca plantations will require nearly $1 billion.

"The $60 or $100 million budget is insufficient. We have not negotiated an (antinarcotics) agreement for that. If those are the figures that the United States is considering for the program, the antidrug struggle will fail," Fujimori said.

The United States and Peru signed an antidrug agreement in Lima on 14 May. The agreement is essentially a declaration of intention, and it will be used as a framework for negotiations that the two countries intend to hold during the next six months to decide on a specific antidrug program.

Fujimori argued that the United States, the world's largest cocaine consumer, spends $20 billion a year in antidrug programs and that it should give Peru, the country with the largest amount of the raw material, a sufficient amount for coca replacement programs.

Fujimori seemed to be confident, however, that the upcoming negotiations will lead to "effective measures for a simultaneous fight against drug trafficking and terrorism." This is the first official recognition that both issues are linked in the antidrug agreement with the United States.

The Peruvian Government believes that drug trafficking and subversion are two sides of the same coin, particularly in Amazon valleys where coca-producing centers are located and where guerrillas move freely, as it was clearly shown by MRTA's recent takeover of four important jungle towns.

According to Robert Martinez, who heads the antidrug struggle in the United States and who visited Lima on 15 May, the U.S. Government has expressed willingness to give Peru all the antiguerrilla support it might need.

During the news conference, Fujimori rejected "any U.S. direct participation," adding that he was willing, however, to accept the donation of military equipment and training on how to use it.

This cooperation would be within the framework of the antidrug agreement that has paved the way for U.S. technical assistance to Peruvian security forces to fight drug trafficking and guerrillas.

Fujimori said he had no information about a recent statement by Attorney General Pedro Mendez Jurado that there are indications of the creation of a "Lima cartel" of drugs as a consequence of Colombian Government pressures against local mafias.

The president also said that he has no evidence to support a report from Peruvian jungle peasants that U.S. antidrug agents are using helicopters to spray coca plantations with a gas-like substance and that later these plantations grow a fungus that destroys them, as well as all other crops.

Fujimori, Economic Officials Make Banking Moves

PY2405032491 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori today summoned Deputy Finance Minister Alfredo Jalilie, and the presidents of the Central Reserve Bank and the Bank of the Nation to evaluate the situation of the exchange market.

An evaluation of the exchange, financial, and local markets was made, and measures compatible with the goals of the economic program were taken.

The first decision made was to eliminate Bank of the Nation interbank loans to private and state banks.

Second, the Bank of the Nation will deposit all its funds in the Central Reserve Bank, for which it will get the appropriate interest.

Third, the Central Reserve Bank will consider the possibility of reducing the period for computing the banks' required reserve from 15 to 17 days [as heard] to achieve a more stable liquidity that is more consistent with the goals of the economic program.

And fourth, it was decided to study the possibility of postponing until December 1991 the companies' obligations to make compensation deposits for years of service.

State of Emergency Extended in 10 Provinces

PY2305180891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1908 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Lima, 22 May (EFE)—The official gazette EL PERUANO reported today that the Peruvian Government has decided to extend the state of emergency for 60 days in 10 provinces of Puno Department, adjacent to Bolivia, and in the southern Department of Arequipa, in light of "increased subversive activity."

This emergency measure establishes that the Armed Forces will control public order and that individual rights are suspended.

Besides these provinces, the state of emergency is also observed in the departments of Apurimac, Huancavelica, Ayacucho, (except in the Huamanga province), Junin, and Pasco in the Andean zone, and in Huanuco, San Martin, and Ucayali in the Amazon jungle.

The state of emergency was also declared in Lima Department, the capital, the port of El Callao, and in four provinces of the Cuzco Department (southeastern Peru).

The measure affects more than 50 percent of the 22 million Peruvians, and almost 65 percent of the territory.

According to a congressional committee that permanently analyzes political violence in the country, terrorist activities have already claimed the lives of 22,21 people and caused damage totalling $18 million.

Police Arrest 30 in University Raids

PY2305205291 Madrid EFE in English 0840 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Lima, May 23 (EFE)—Police have detained 30 students and confiscated explosives and rebel propaganda at two Lima universities after radical students hurled stones at Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori when he visited the campuses.

In a swoop Wednesday [22 May] at the Enrique Guzman Education University outside Lima, 30 students were taken into custody on suspicion of terrorism after police found explosives and leftist rebel propaganda on the grounds.

Police also seized red flags and explosives at San Marcos University, but made no arrests.

The raids came a day after Fujimori visited both universities to launch a graffiti clean-up campaign and was greeted by catcalls and a hail of stones. Two explosions were heard from inside the San Marcos campus.

The two universities have for many years been considered a nest for supporters of Peru's two leftist rebel groups, the Maoist "Shining Path," and the leftist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA).

After his visits, Fujimori, a former university rector, vowed to "surgically remove the subversive presence" from Peru's higher education system.

Over 22,000 people have died in political violence since Shining Path took up arms in 1980, to be followed four years later by the MRTA.

The latest victims included an Australian nun and four local officials who were captured in a Shining Path attack on a mountain village in central Peru, subjected to a mock "trial," and blown up with dynamite on Wednesday.

* Agriculture Minister, ILD on Land Issues

* Minister Clarifies Decree

91SM0296A Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Apr 91 p A3

[Excerpt] The Minister of Agriculture, Enrique Rossi Link, said yesterday that the application of Supreme Decree 09-91-AG, which regulates the Private Land System, "will guarantee the property rights of native communities and of small and midsized landowners, without special favors or discrimination."

He made this statement yesterday during the ceremony for the "World Day of Land for Children," held in the Carabayllo communal meeting room. This comment came after the minister had refuted criticisms concerning the application of this decree, criticisms which the minister described as "without the slightest foundation of truth."

"Supreme Decree 09-91-AG provides certain guarantees protecting the native communities and the owners of small and midsized properties. Private initiative and the native communities were involved in drafting this decree. They may seek protection freely under this decree, and become the major beneficiaries of the land program," emphasized Rossi Link.

"There Will Be No Special Favors"

The minister also rejected the argument that after the application of this regulation, over 7,000 rural properties could not be registered, sold, transferred or mortgaged.

"I am sure this is not true. Where do these figures come from?" asked the minister of agriculture of the people citing these figures.

"The only thing I can say with certainty is that if this figure is true, the owners of these 7,000 rural properties have guaranteed their right to ownership and access to credit. There will be no differences or special favors here; everyone will enjoy the same benefits," pointed out Rossi Link.

He also said that one innovative aspect of the new regulation offers technical assistance for landowners, "who have been neglected for the past 30 years." [passage omitted]

* ILD Voices Opposition

91SM0296B Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 10 Apr 91 p A7

[Text] The ILD [Liberty and Democracy Institute] has made a number of comments on Supreme Decree 009 which the government has issued on agrarian issues. It

claims that a number of restrictions have been maintained, affecting half the farmers, such as exclusion from the benefits of ownership, leasing, access to credit, and obtaining new lands.

Through the ILD projects directors, Luis Bustamante Belaunde and Dr. Albert Forsay, the institute stated that, according to this decree, properties of under 3 hectares can not be leased.

They maintain that the causes for eviction are kept very restricted, against the landowners' interests; in addition, it is not known with certainty if the term of the lease may be less than six years.

Forsay said that over 700,000 rural properties, belonging to over half of Peru's farmers, have less than 3 hectares and are without legal title; under the new decree, these farms may no longer be registered, sold, transferred or mortgaged.

On the subject of credit, he argued that, if the objective of the government's policy is economic pluralism and making credit available to everyone, small farmers should not be excluded from the market as they are by this decree; instead, they should be encouraged to register their farm, and a system of mortgage and property insurance should be designed to benefit the 92 percent of the rural properties which are not registered.

He asserted that if this is not done, this decree will benefit only 8 percent of the owners of agricultural land.

He stated that in addition, every application for the awarding of lands by the state must be accompanied by a bond or bank deposit.

Extradition of Panamanian Officer Requested

PY2305145491 Lima Radio Nacional del Peru Pachacutec Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] The Panamanian Government has requested the extradition of Manuel Gonzalez, a major in the disbanded Defense Forces, who has sought asylum in Peru. According to a communique from the Panamanian Foreign Ministry, Gonzalez is wanted for homicide, accused of executing some military officers after a failed coup against General Antonio Noriega.

Guyana

GUARD Pressure Group To Contest Elections

FL2305164591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1626 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 23, CANA—A Guyana pressure group, after 17 months of agitation for electoral reforms here, has announced it will sponsor a "civic list" of candidates at the general elections due by year-end. Guyanese Action for Reform and Democracy (GUARD) said it will not become a political party and the list it will promote will be committed to forming a two-year interim government after the elections and to a programme of democratic reform.

GUARD has set up a "working group" to promote the list. Nominees are being invited from a range of organisations, and some have already been identified but will not be publicly named as yet, GUARD said. Opposition groups here claim past polls were plagued by irregularities and have campaigned for a electoral reforms. Opposition parties held protracted discussion, without agreement, on a joint election challenge to the 27-year rule of the People's National Congress (PNC) party.

"GUARD is strongly convinced that an interim government is the radical solution which will motivate people to take part in elections and offer them hope in the future," a statement from the group said.

The "predominantly civic candidates" on the list would be committed to an interim government whose programme will be to: install an honorary president after elections; rewrite the Constitution to "eliminate excessive executive powers and return real power to Parliament;" and create a broad-based elections commission. It would also "promote racial security, restore the independence of public institutions....., create a proper legal framework for industrial relations....., restore public morality, and lay the basis for economic recovery."

"GUARD is taking this step after wide consultation with individuals and groups across the country. People want an electoral choice which marks a complete break with the past 20 years," the group said.

"GUARD believes that people want a choice which unifies the nation. For this reason, GUARD is providing such a choice without becoming another political party which is neither necessary nor desireable."

The working group to promote the list includes members of the GUARD steering committee, who have since resigned from the committee, and is headed by former GUARD co-ordinator trade unionist and human rights activitist Nanda Kishore Gopaul.

Government Drafts Utilities Antistrike Law

FL2305202091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1755 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 23, CANA—After a near-shutdown of Guyana's power supply by a recent electricity workers strike, the government has drafted legislation to prevent strikes in the utilities sector.

The Public Utility Undertaking and Public Health Services Arbitration (Amendment) Bill 1991, tabled in the National Assembly, seeks harsher fines and extended jail terms for persons who strike or incite others to take similar action.

The tabling of the Bill also follows a lengthy nurses strike at the main public hospital several months ago.

A spokesman of the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE), which called the electricity workers strike, said the union was the object of the legislation, but it was not afraid.

The three-page bill seeks to increase fines from 150 to 10,000 Guyana dollars and to increase imprisonment from two to six months when an employee strikes in contravention of the provisions of the act. The bill also proposes a further fine of 5,000 dollars for each day a strike or other protest action continues.

NAACIE president N.K. Gopaul also said the legislation was designed to undermine trade union militancy in Guyana. He said attempts to put shackles on the right of workers to strike had not succeeded and would not succeed at any time.

NAACIE called the electricity workers strike earlier this month to press demands for higher pay and a poll to settle the issue of union representation of junior workers. NAACIE had been seeking to replace the Manpower Citizens Association as the workers' representative.

Suriname

Government Conveys Condolences in Death of Gandhi

PY2305215491 Paramaribo Radio Suriname International in English 1730 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] The Surinamese Government has, in a message of condolences to the president of India, expressed deep sorrow over the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

With his passing, Asia and the world have been deprived of a great statesman who in the past led India with great wisdom and dedication, said the message.

According to the statement, Rajiv Gandhi will be remembered by the world for his effort in favor of a new international economic order and justice and dignity for developing countries.

President Johannes Kraag and members of the Council of Ministers this morning signed a book of condolences at the Indian Embassy in Paramaribo.

OAS Official Cancels Trip To Observe Elections

PY2405005291 Paramaribo Radio Suriname International in English 1730 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] The secretary general of the Organization of American States, OAS, Joao Baena Soares, won't be in Suriname to observe the elections. Soares, who was to arrive in Suriname today, has called off his visit to Suriname on the advice of the doctor. According to the head of the OAS observers mission in Suriname, (Edgardo Rey), the secretary general has heart problems. Baena Soares would stay in Suriname until the new president was installed. Now the OAS observer team [words indistict] the reform of the (?40)-member region will be discussed next month during an OAS meeting in Chile.

EC Observers To Monitor 26 May Election

PY2305214691 Paramaribo Radio Suriname International in English 1730 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] On request of the Surinamese Government, the European Community will send an observer mission to Suriname to monitor elections on Saturday coming. The request was made to the joint meeting of the EC and countries from the Caribbean, Africa, and the Pacific region united in the ACP [African, Caribbean, and Pacific Countries Affiliated under Lome Convention].

The ACP-EC countries have during a meeting in February this year approved a resolution on cooperation with Suriname in which, among others, the organizing of elections is welcome as a means for development and progress in an atmosphere of peace and justice.

Three representatives of the European Community will be present on the day of the election to monitor the course of the polls.